Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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GOP asks school principal to run for delegate. PAGE 5
Crime Stoppers names winners of TV spot contest. PAGE 7

Japan firm wants to lease 1 northern island for tsunami debris

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A private Japanese firm has offered to lease one of the islands north of Saipan as a disposal and recycling site for tons of debris from the March 2011 tsunami in Japan, Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday.

Tenorio said officials of the firm will be coming to Saipan next week to meet with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to discuss the proposal, which could mean millions of dollars of fresh revenues for the CNMI and help Japan in its recovery.

See JAPAN on Page 4

'Fight bankruptcy proceedings'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Active and retired members of the Commonwealth pension program were urged to fight and stop the proceedings in the bankruptcy petition filed by the NMI Retirement Fund's board of trustees Tuesday, citing that beneficiaries have the right to do so.

» Heated arguments ensue at members' forum
» Surprised, upset retirees attack Fund trustees

During a tense and emotional gathering at the American Memorial Park Tuesday night that was attended by hundreds of active Fund members and retirees, Glen Hunter urged them to fight the bankruptcy proceedings.

"You can stop it! Let's fight this bankruptcy proceedings. They [the Fund board] should talk to you in advance but they

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RELATED NEWS

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➤ Dotts: Bankruptcy court has tremendous powers. PAGE 3
➤ Judge recuses self from Fund's bankruptcy case. PAGE 4

A WHALE OF A BONE CLARISSA V. DAVID

William S. Reyes Elementary School students under the class of Roselle Ichihara Carreon view the whale vertebrae during the second day of the 2012 Environmental Expo at the American Memorial Park yesterday. The three-day expo, which concludes today, expects to draw about 1,500 fourth and fifth graders from public and private elementary schools on island.

CUC hikes water electric fee

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Just a week after increasing its rate for LEAC, or levelized energy adjustment clause, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be implementing another rate hike, this time on the customer's water electric charge.

Charles Warren, CUC's chief financial officer, said

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AG holds off release of MPLT loan to CHC

» Payless payday, partial shutdown, mass resignation at CHC in the offing
» CEO, board to ask redeclaration of state of emergency

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the submission of required documents and justifications on how the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will use the remaining $2 million from an already approved loan from the Marianas Public Land Trust, nothing has been released yet from the

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RELATED NEWS

➤ '$7M line of credit for CHC hinges on accountability' PAGE 6
➤ Torres denies overlap in hospital billing contracts. PAGE 6

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest, what's your level of optimism that you will get your rebate for the 2011 tax year?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

ASIA

China asks the Philippines to withdraw a coast guard ship from a disputed shoal. ➤ PAGE 15

ENVIRONMENT

The mile-a-minute vine in the CNMI will be exposed to biological control. ➤ PAGE 18

LIFE & STYLE

As superhero summers go, this one is truly super. ➤ PAGE 19

Local

Frequently-asked-questions about the Fund's bankruptcy filing

Will I be paid my next benefit payment?

Yes. The Fund has taken steps to ensure that beneficiaries will receive their full benefits for at least the next two months. The Fund also intends to immediately engage in discussions with the official committee of creditors, once it is formed, to discuss the terms on which benefit payments should continue after the first two months of the case and beyond.

Will the payment schedule change?

It will not for the first two months of the case. The Fund also intends to immediately engage in discussions with the official committee of creditors, once it is formed, to discuss the terms and schedule on which benefit payments should continue after the first two months of the case and beyond.

Will I continue to receive my health insurance benefits?

Yes. For at least the first two months of the case. The Fund also intends to immediately engage in discussions with the official committee of creditors, once it is formed, to discuss the terms and schedule on which benefit payments should continue after the first two months of the case and beyond.

I am on disability. Does this filing affect me?

You will continue to receive your disability benefits for at least the first two months of the case. The Fund also intends to immediately engage in discussions with the official committee of creditors, once it is formed, to discuss the terms and schedule on which benefit payments should continue after the first two months of the case and beyond.

I am receiving workers compensation. Does the filling affect me?

You will continue to receive your workers compensation benefits for at least the first two months of the case. The Fund also intends to immediately engage in discussions with the official committee of creditors, once it is formed, to discuss the terms and schedule on which benefit payments should continue after the first two months of the case and beyond.

Are the assets of the Fund protected in this court process?

Yes. Upon the filing of the Chapter 11 case, an "automatic stay" was imposed to protect the Fund's assets.

I am a retiree. Will I get a say in court?

Yes. The Chapter 11 process is designed to facilitate creditor input. In fact, the United States Trustee will solicit interest from creditors to sit on an official committee that will advocate on behalf of all creditors. Furthermore, the Fund encourages all retirees to participate in the process, which is a primary benefit of the Chapter 11 process.

What is expected to happen to my retirement account?

The Fund's goal through this restructuring process is to emerge from the Chapter 11 case with a confirmed plan of reorganization that will adjust benefits to a level that will allow the Fund to continue some level of benefit funding for the remainder of the lives of all retirees. Until we engage in discussions with representatives of creditors (which we intend to do as soon as possible), we cannot speculate on what the plan of reorganization will look like at this time. But once a plan is filed, it will be submitted to creditors for their vote.

I put in my application to withdraw my contributions. What is going to happen to my application?

Your contributions and the rest of the Fund's assets are under the protection of the bankruptcy court. Our intent is to work with the creditors committee (once formed) to develop a plan that is in the best interests of all creditors.

I didn't cash my retirement check. Will the bank still honor the check?

As part of the initial relief requested in the case, we are seeking court permission to honor checks issued prior to the bankruptcy.

I do not have a bank account and cannot receive ACH transfers. Will I still get my check?

If you did not establish a bank account for receiving ACH transfers prior to the April 15 benefit payday, then your benefit has not been processed, consistent with the Fund regulations and the notices previously sent to you with your benefits checks. You can receive your benefits by establishing a bank account that can receive ACH transfers and bringing the information to the Fund so that Member Services may establish the direct deposit to your account. The Fund has taken steps prior to filing in federal court to ensure that members continue to receive benefits for at least two months in the same amount as before the Chapter 11 filing, but all payments will be made by ACH direct deposit only, there will be no more paper checks issued for benefit payments.

What is the current status of the Fund?

The Fund continues in existence during the Chapter 11 process.

Is it possible that our payment amount will change as a result of its Chapter 11 filing?

Yes. As many people know, if the Fund continues making payments at the current level, it is expected the Fund could be depleted by September 2014 and unable to make any payments after that. The primary goal of this restructuring process is to align benefit payments with the current funding level so that the Fund can continue making payments for the remainder of all beneficiaries' lives.

Why did the Fund decide to enter into a court process of this nature?

The Fund and its board of trustees carefully considered all known options to address the underfunding problem. And, after consultation with its professionals, the Fund elected to file for Chapter 11 relief to restructure its financial obligations. The Chapter 11 process provides many benefits, including: (a) it allows creditors to have a say in the course of the case; and (b) creditors are permitted to vote on the plan that is ultimately proposed.

What is being done to protect our right to withdraw from the Fund?

The Fund is assessing all of its assets and obligations, and intends to discuss withdrawal requests with the official committee of creditors, once it is formed.

Why aren't you trying to collect in federal court?

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court is a federal court, and the Fund intends to explore all options available to it to collect on the judgment against the government.

Why didn't you give the Legislature time to come up with a solution?

The Chapter 11 filing does nothing to stop the legislature from continuing to work on a solution. In fact, the Fund hopes that the Legislature will recognize the Chapter 11 case as an opportunity to participate meaningfully in the discussion as to how to address the underfunding problem.

Why didn't you give Judge Govendo time to come up with a solution?

Under the circumstances, the Fund believed it was necessary to begin the Chapter 11 proceeding as soon as possible so as to maximize the Fund's chances to reorganize and continue making benefit payments at a sustainable level. Through the restructuring process, the debtors will discuss with the creditors committee (once formed) the options that had been under consideration in the case before Judge Govendo.

How will I find out about court filings?

We are discussing with our professionals various options to help creditors stay abreast of case developments. It is likely we will use the Fund website to post needed information or to provide directions on where such information can be obtained. The Fund website is: http://www.nmiretirement.com//.

How will I know what is going on with the court case?

We are discussing with our professionals various options to help creditors stay abreast of case developments. It is likely we will use the Fund website to post needed information or to provide directions on where such information can be obtained. The Fund website is: http://www.nmiretirement.com/.

Why was a new corporation set up?

Prior to the court filing, we formed a new CNMI company called Pension Holdings Corporation. This new company's sole purpose is to satisfy the Fund's obligations to Beneficiaries for a period of up to two months. In other words, you will continue to receive your benefit payment per our normal payment schedule and life and health insurance coverage for the first two months after filing.

When I retire will I receive my retirement payment from the Fund?

The purpose of this Chapter 11 case is to align current payments of benefits with the Fund's current assets. The goal is to emerge from the case with the Fund's obligations restructured so that the Fund can continue providing benefits far into the future when you retire.

I'm in the process of retiring. What do I need to do? Can I still retire?

The Fund will be permitted to continue processing your retirement. The payment of benefits to you would be subject to the same treatment as benefits paid to existing retirees.

What is my expected monthly payment upon retirement?

The Fund will work with its professionals and the creditors committee, once formed, to determine the amount that can be paid while at the same time ensuring the Fund can remain in existence and paying benefits for the remainder of your life and the lives of your fellow Fund members.

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Habitual offender gets 6 mos. in prison for beating up wife

Notorious copper wire thief Shabbo C. Sablan was slapped yesterday with a six-month prison term, this time for kneeing his common-law wife in the face and punching her in front of their two children.

The 22-year-old Sablan pleaded guilty to assault and battery and criminal contempt as part of a plea bargain.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Sablan to 18 months in prison, all suspended except for six months, with credit for the time he has been in jail since Feb. 11, 2012.

Once he gets out, he will be placed on probation for three years. He was ordered to pay a $200 fine, $25 court assessment fee, plus probation fee. He was also required to perform 100 hours of community service and write a letter of apology to the victim.

The Office of the Attorney General alleged that, on Feb. 11, 2012, on Saipan, Sablan punched the victim in the head, kneed her in the face, and put her in a chokehold—all in front of their two children.

The OAG noted that Sablan has an extensive juvenile criminal record, highlighted by convictions for theft, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace in 2003 and burglary and assault and battery in 2006.

The OAG said, that in 2009, Sablan was charged with criminal mischief, theft, and conspiracy. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Dotts: Bankruptcy court has tremendous powers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A bankruptcy court has such tremendous powers it could force a shutdown of nonessential government agencies that do not pay their correct contributions on time, according to veteran lawyer Michael W. Dotts.

When asked yesterday for his thoughts about the NMI Retirement Fund's decision to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, Dotts told *Saipan Tribune* that the bankruptcy court could possibly force CNMI agencies to actually pay the contributions they owe at the rate set by the Fund actuary.

Dotts said the bankruptcy court also has the power to force the Fitial administration to find money to pay the judgment to the Fund or face the seizure of government property to be sold under the court's administration.

"The bankruptcy court can take its time in selling assets to maximize the protection of the Fund," the lawyer said.

The central government owes the Fund an estimated $317 million in employer's contributions.

Dotts said it appears the motive for filing the Chapter 11 petition was to utilize the power of the bankruptcy court to force the retirees to take drastic cuts in their pensions.

"But it is possible that the bankruptcy court might be able to help recover money from the administration and actually save the Fund with no or only a minimal reduction in benefits," he said.

» Could force a shutdown of nonessential govt agencies
» Force Fitial administration to find money to pay the Fund

Dotts said that filing for bankruptcy may sound like a smart move but the court might be unwilling to do what the Fund board wants. He pointed out that the Fund is not really "bankrupt" and that the retirees are not really "creditors."

"The bankruptcy judge might view the bankruptcy filing as a way for the politicians and trustees to avoid making their own tough decisions," he said.

The judge, Dotts said, might feel the court is being improperly used to strip retirees of their constitutionally guaranteed benefits.

For these reasons, Dotts believes it is possible that the petition for bankruptcy will be thrown out of court.

The bankruptcy court might not have the power to reduce benefits, Dotts said, citing that the CNMI Constitution protects the benefits of retirees and that the power of the bankruptcy court to cancel contracts might not really apply because the Fund is not actually bankrupt.

Dotts pointed out that a trust running out of money to distribute is not the same thing as a company unable to pay creditors. "Even when the Fund runs out of money to distribute, the Commonwealth still has to pay the benefits to the retirees pursuant to the constitutional guarantee, so there is actually no desperate need to reduce benefits," he noted.

When the Fund runs out of money, it is just going to become very hard for the administration to distribute about $50 million in annual retirement benefits and continue to operate essential services when the CNMI only collects about $102 million in annual revenue, he said.

Dotts said the bankruptcy is going to be very expensive for the Fund, having hired a bankruptcy counsel from a Boston law firm. He said the Boston lawyer who flew here "is no doubt high priced" and the Fund will have to pay the costs for administering the bankruptcy "and that will not be cheap."

Dotts' observation is that the Fund board intentionally hid its intent to file for bankruptcy from at least the Legislature and the retirees.

"The attorney who was present on Saipan for the Fund's press conference flew all the way out here from Boston. That no doubt took time to arrange," he said.

Dotts also noted that many papers were filed on Tuesday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, a clear evidence that the Fund's attorneys have been working on those documents for some time, probably weeks.

"Filing bankruptcy was not a sudden decision but was part of a deliberate plan," the lawyer added.

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Judge Manglona recuses self from Fund's bankruptcy case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona recused herself yesterday from presiding over the NMI Retirement Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy case.

As this developed, the Fund, through its counsel Braddock J. Huesman and Boston law firm Brown Rudnick, has asked the court to expedite a hearing on its motions.

In a one-page order, Manglona said she must recuse herself from the case based on "spousal interest in the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund."

Manglona

Judge Manglona's husband, CNMI Supreme Court associate justice John A. Manglona, is a member of the Fund.

Manglona directed the court's clerk to refer the case to Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit for re-assignment to another judge.

In the Fund's emergency motion for an expedited hearing, Huesman said there is a need to continue making benefit payments to Fund beneficiaries while the Chapter 11 proceedings is ongoing. Huesman also cited the need to stay ongoing and potential lawsuits to give the Fund relief to re-organize.

Huesman said no request for the appointment of a trustee or examiner has been made in this case and, as of yesterday, no official committees have been appointed or designed.

The lawyer said the Fund's beneficiaries rely on their pensions for their survival and well-being, to meet their basic food, clothing, shelter, and health care needs.

Huesman said the Fund seeks entry of an order allowing it to pay, for a period of two months from Tuesday, 100 percent of the full amount of benefits owed to beneficiaries.

The lawyer said since the motions that the Fund filed on Tuesday will benefit the Fund's estate and, by extension, the estate's creditors, no party will be unfairly prejudiced by an expedited hearing.

CUC

From Page 1

yesterday that retroactive to April 16 this year, the water electric charge will increase from $2.90 per 1,000 gallons to $3.15 per 1,000 gallons—a 25-cent bump that translates to an 8.6-percent increase.

For the average residential customer, the impact will be about $2.25 monthly.

CUC enforced a new LEAC rate effective April 9, 2012, in the wake of continued oil price hikes in the world market. The new rate is $0.32910 per kilowatt-hour—a 7.725-percent increase from the LEAC rate of $0.30550 approved in January 2012. To average residential customers that use 500 kWh a month, the impact on their bills is $11.80 monthly.

When combining both the new LEAC and water electric charge, Warren said the impact on the average residential customer will be a total of $14.05 monthly. LEAC's impact is $11.80 while water electric charge is about $2.25.

According to Warren, both water electric charge and wastewater electric charge are only adjusted when the LEAC electric rate is changed.

LEAC is part of the customer's bill that reflects the cost of fuel. It is supposed to go up or down to reflect the cost of buying fuel to run the power plants. The other element of the bill is the electric base rate.

For the wastewater electric charge, Warren said that CUC decreased the rates, also effective April 16. From the existing $3 for every 1,000 gallons, it was reduced to $2.97 per 1,000 gallons.

Warren disclosed that the wastewater electric charge is currently not being charged to customers. At the January session, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission ordered the CUC power division to lend the wastewater division up to $2.85 million to offset the cost of electricity charges.

He said the water electric charge and the wastewater electric charge are to reimburse CUC for all electricity costs it incurs to produce, treat, and transport water and wastewater.

Like the new LEAC rate, Warren said the adjusted water and wastewater electric charges will be up for review by the CPUC once it reconvenes. "Everything CUC does on rates is subject to review by the PUC," he added.

CUC projects to spend $25.454 million on fuel within six months. For February through July 2012, it forecasts to use up 8.4 million gallons of fuel for power production. The average gallon per month is 1.4 million with estimated cost of more or less $4.2 million.

CUC earlier disclosed that majority of residential ratepayers use 10,000 gallons of water and wastewater service a month. CUC has about 9,904 water customers and 2,887 wastewater customers.

FIGHT

From Page 1

never did. They said they protect you and will protect you and your benefits but they actually are impaired," Hunter told the crowd.

His words prompted a brief scuffle with Fund counsel Carolyn Kern, who grabbed the microphone from Hunter and ordered him to stop speaking. This provoked a round of booing from the crowd, who all urged Kern to give back the floor to Hunter. She immediately apologized and gave the microphone back.

Hunter accused the Fund board of hiding important information from Fund members—from the plan to file for bankruptcy, to the creation of a pension corporation, to the rate to be paid to the bankruptcy counsel, among others.

Becky Cruz, a retiree, gave an emotional plea to the board. "Please be honest with us. Why are we not consulted in this decision? Why did you leave us on the side? That's our money and we have the right to it, so please don't treat us like a trash because we're not," she said.

Another retiree, David Sablan, also voiced out his sentiments, describing the Fund's decision as unfair to members. The Fund's contract with members, he said, should be honored.

A visibly angry Juan I. Tenorio scored the Fund board for taking such a drastic action that will impact his life—not the trustees'.

Maggie Sablan, who spoke on behalf of her retired parents who live off-island, asked the board for answers on how she would explain this development to her parents, whose pension checks are their only means of living.

In the more than two hours of heated discussion and exchanges, Fund representatives Richard Villagomez, Viola Alepuyo, Braddock Huesman, and Jeremy Coffey were sitting ducks for the recrimination and blame that were lavishly doled out that night.

When asked by members how they can be of help to the situation, Alepuyo encouraged them to speak up and scream with the Fund in seeking assistance from the Legislature and the Fitial administration. Alepuyo cited the numerous efforts extended by the Fund in seeking help from Legislature, which she said fell on deaf ears.

The court had determined in June 2009 that the central government owes the Fund $317 million in employer contribution since 1999. This resulted in a significant decline in the Fund's assets as it continues to pay for members' benefits.

JAPAN

From Page 1

"If the response is good, there's a plan to charter a plane to fly to one of the islands and take a look at it. …If the deal is okay, then we'll sign a lease," Tenorio said in an interview after meeting with the governor yesterday afternoon.

Tenorio, a former governor and speaker, pointed out that the tsunami debris from Japan that are planned to be shipped to one of the Northern Islands are "non-toxic" and "non-radioactive" materials.

"The Japanese government will certify them that this stuff is okay. I don't think we'll have a problem with the local government. But where does the federal government come into the picture?" he asked.

Tenorio said in his opinion, the best island suited for such project will be Pagan, although there may be objections to it because of pozzolan on the island. Pozzolan is a siliceous volcanic ash used to produce hydraulic cement.

"We might strike a deal," Tenorio said, referring to the possibility of requiring the company to ship pozzolan out of Pagan and sell them because it is too costly to ship them out of the island.

Tenorio said the ships will be loaded with debris coming into the Northern Islands, but they would be empty coming from the island so it might make sense for them to also ship pozzolan out of Pagan and the CNMI will have an additional revenue from this.

"The amount of the lease will depend on how long they will lease it and the size of land they need," he said, adding that there were those offering to lease it for $10 million a year and another, $100 million.

Former Department of Public Lands secretary Oscar M. Babauta, when asked for comment, said yesterday that he was aware of such a proposal to ship solid waste from Japan to the Northern Island, when he was still with DPL.

Babauta said this could be a worthwhile undertaking but would need a lot of planning. For one, while it may not require the CNMI to spend a dollar, it might have environmental impact later on.

"It would require properly engineered containment facility, for example. And considering our location, we're typhoon-prone and also in the ring of fire," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

When the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami struck Japan, the CNMI and its residents offered to host Japanese families who may want to temporarily relocate from Japan to the CNMI. Japan is the CNMI's major tourism market.

Tenorio said that despite the CNMI's sympathy, it was frustrated that it was unable to be of direct assistance to Japan when the disasters struck. He said it now appears that the CNMI might have the privilege of assisting Japan in its efforts to restore its country to its former beauty.

During an interview, Tenorio said the Japanese government has been giving monies to cities to dispose of their debris. He said Japanese cities couldn't even rebuild their areas because there's just no place to bring the tsunami debris.

Back in October, Fitial told an economic forum of nearly 400 in Beijing, China that he is willing to lease some of the CNMI's islands but only if it's not for military purposes, so that the Commonwealth can provide job opportunities and improve its economy.

Fitial was making reference to the availability of mass public lands in the undeveloped and uninhabited Northern Islands.

The Northern Islands include Farallon de Medinilla, Anatahan, Sarigan, Guiguan, Alamagan, Pagan, Agrihan, Asuncion, Maug, and Farallon de Pajaros or Uracas.

AG

From Page 1

scheduled drawdown on the loan.

The reason: the Office of the Attorney General is holding off on the release of the funds until the corporation provides it more documents.

Healthcare corporation board chair Joaquin Torres and chief financial officer Alvaro Santos confirmed this with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, with Santos adding that all requirements have already been submitted as far as he is concerned.

He said he is now confused over what additional information and documents Attorney General Edward Buckingham is asking for from Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta.

Under the memorandum of agreement on the $3 million MPLT loan, the corporation is scheduled to draw down $500,000 from the loan every two weeks. Since the initial release of $1 million last month, nothing from the balance has been released yet.

As a consequence, Torres said the corporation won't be able to pay its employees their salaries this Friday, the hospital might be forced to shut down, employees may have to be furloughed, and, as a worst-case scenario, a possible mass resignation of physicians.

He said the hospital has already been generating some revenue but this is not enough to cover all the payroll scheduled on Friday.

As of this month, the delay in the release of the housing allowance of CHC employees reaches five months. With the situation as it is and without the MPLT loan, Torres said he cannot promise when the corporation will to able to meet this obligation.

In an email to *Saipan Tribune* on Monday, Babauta said the $500,000 they expected to drawdown since last week is for payroll and a portion of housing benefits. "On just these two items, the cost will be way over $500,000. The difference will come from what little money we can scrape up from revenues," said Babauta.

Babauta and Dr. Jeremy Richards, director for Medical Affairs, together with the management team, have been working since yesterday on a preliminary contingency plan that is expected to be finalized by Friday. Among the options are the partial shutdown of the hospital, which means only the emergency room will be open, and putting affected employees in other units on an emergency furlough.

Late Tuesday afternoon, Babauta called for an emergency meeting attended by Torres, House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), MPLT chair Pedro Deleon Guerrero, as well as corporation board members, hospital department heads, and supervisors. The meeting started past 5pm and lasted some hours.

Torres described the meeting's atmosphere as "pretty intense, very serious, and a lot of disappointments."

When asked why Buckingham is holding off releasing the funds, Torres could only think of one thing: "It's the ICS [International Consulting Service] contract, which I think should be separated from this MPLT loan issue."

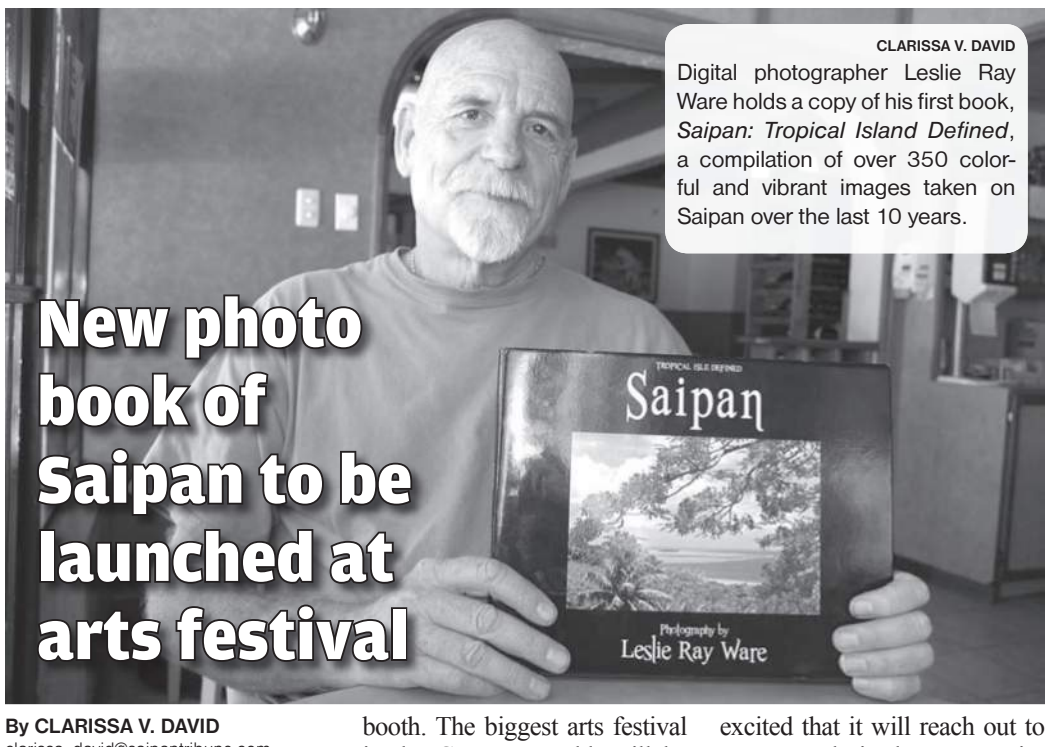
Torres said that Buckingham informed Babauta on Tuesday that the ICS' contract is unlawful and ordered a stop on the contract, giving the corporation 45 days to rectify the issue. "And we're correcting that, so there shouldn't be a problem in releasing the money for the payroll," he said.

State of emergency

Torres and Babauta were scheduled to meet with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday afternoon but this was cancelled. The main agenda was to request a redeclaration of emergency at the hospital to maximize all options and resources for CHC, which also lacks important supplies.

The governor last declared a state of emergency at CHC on March 6; it expired on April 6. Procurement regulations are suspended during a state of emergency and government funds can be reprogrammed to CHC.

Torres said that a redeclaration of emergency will enable the corporation to reprocess the ICS contract—which means documents will be reviewed and signed by all parties concerned, including the AG.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Digital photographer Leslie Ray Ware holds a copy of his first book, *Saipan: Tropical Island Defined*, a compilation of over 350 colorful and vibrant images taken on Saipan over the last 10 years.

New photo book of Saipan to be launched at arts festival

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Digital photographer Leslie Ray Ware will be launching a book compilation of his favorite photographs taken on Saipan over the last 10 years at the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival.

Saipan: Tropical Isle Defined, had its soft launch about two months ago when it was made available at the Star Sands Plaza in Garapan and at the NMI Museum at $80 per copy.

The hardbound book features over 350 colorful and vibrant images of the island—its sunsets, the flame trees, and a wide range of panoramic views of its beaches, historic and tourist sites such as Old Man by the Sea, Last Command Post, Sugar King Park, and even not so familiar spots like Tiger Beach and Boy Scout beaches.

As part of its grand launching, the book will have a "Flame Tree Special Price" at Ware's booth. The biggest arts festival in the Commonwealth will be held at the Civic Center Park on April 20 to 22.

"It's a good representation of Saipan. Right now, I have so many photos of the island that it would be advantageous for me to publish a book that somehow serves like a portfolio and catalog. The good thing about it is that everything in the book is available as prints," said Ware on Tuesday.

He said this is his first book, printed in "extra special" or "super glossed" paper to bring out—even enhance—the quality of the photos for a better viewing experience.

Ware explained that the Arts Council has been appreciative of his work and has been helping him promote his works through the council's various annual exhibits and events, making it easy for him to choose to launch the book at the festival.

Ware said he "feels good" about the warm reception that his book has been receiving since its soft launch. "Everybody who picks up a copy of the book loves it, and I'm really excited that it will reach out to more people in the community through the grand opening at the festival," he added.

He noted that the book is only the first of his planned ventures, which will include compilations of photos taken on Tinian and Rota as well as other places he's visited and continues to visit such as Guam, Hawaii, Cambodia, and Thailand.

A native of Idaho, Ware works as a supervisor for the Transportation Security Administration and was sent to Saipan on "temporary duty."

"I never left. I love it here," said Ware, who plans to retire from his job with the federal government in May and focus his time on digital photography.

Ware, 63, revealed how he began his career as a photographer in the '60s—back when taking photos meant using cameras and rolls of films he would develop in his dark room.

"I bought my first digital camera sometime in '92 or '93. It was a Fuji; 2.2 megapixels," he said. Since then, Ware has had several digital cameras "more than my wife wants me to have."

Inos in Japan for tourism events

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos left Monday morning for Japan to attend tourism events.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that Inos is attending the Mariana Seminar in Nagoya, where Japan's major travel agents were updated about the Northern Marianas destination, and the annual Japan-Marianas Tourism Council meeting in Tokyo.

"During these challenging times in the CNMI, it is important not only to show support for our sole economic industry, but to meet with our partners and understand their concerns and assist to revive our tourism industry," Demapan said.

Inos is accompanied by Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio.

Last year during the same events in Japan, Inos discussed how the CNMI government and the federal government were collectively working together to address public concern surrounding the potential impact of Japan's nuclear reactor crisis in the wake of the quake and tsunami in March 2011. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

GOP asks school principal to run for delegate

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's Republican Party has asked longtime educator Dr. Ignacia Tudela Demapan, the current principal of Kagman Elementary School, to become the party's delegate candidate in the Nov. 6 elections.

The party asked Demapan on Sunday, a few days after Joeten-Kiyu Public Library executive director John Oliver "Bolis" Gonzales declined the Republican nomination "for personal reasons."

GOP treasurer Ray Salas and other party members said yesterday that Demapan asked for more time to decide whether to accept the nomination.

The party held another meeting at the governor's private residence in Gualo Rai last night.

Demapan has been an educator for more than 20 years. She was a teacher at San Antonio Elementary School and Marianas High School before becoming a vice principal at Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School. She also served as vice principal and acting principal at Tanapag Elementary School. In 2000, she became principal at Kagman Elementary School. She earned her doctorate in psychology last year.

Republicans interviewed yesterday said that Demapan can beat Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), who is seeking a third term. Sablan, who is aligned with the Democratic Party in Congress, has been endorsed by the CNMI Covenant Party and the so-called Independent Republicans.

Fitial, now chairman of the Republican Party in the CNMI, wants Sablan to be replaced with a Republican.

2012 DISCONNECTION DATES

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$7M line of credit for CHC hinges on accountability—lawmakers

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A six-member legislative conference committee met for the first time yesterday to try to reach a compromise on a contentious bill giving up to $7 million—instead of the original $11.58 million—line of credit for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to help prevent it from shutting down some units.

But Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), co-chair of the conference committee from the Senate and House, said the compromise hinges mainly on accountability of CHC funds.

If a conference committee report can be finalized before this afternoon's House session, the bill could be acted on by the Senate tomorrow and could be on the governor's desk immediately.

Torres, also the spokesman for the conference committee, made it clear that the conferees all want CHC to have access to funding to run its facility, but CHC should be able to account for every penny it receives and spends.

The original bill provided $11.58 million in line of credit but, after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial placed CHC under a state of emergency, CHC entered into a $4.58 million agreement with the Marianas Public Land Trust.

Lawmakers, however, said CHC still has some $2 million to receive from MPLT as part of the $4.58 million loan deal so they were surprised to hear that CHC could close some of its units.

That $2 million MPLT check for CHC was signed yesterday, so some lawmakers said there's no reason for CHC to shut down any time soon.

Moreover, once the conference committee comes up with a compromise bill, it is expected to immediately pass the House and Senate for the governor's action.

Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan) and Torres, co-chairs of the committee, wrote a joint letter yesterday to CHC chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta, asking him to meet with the panel this morning to discuss House Bill 17-278.

They also asked Babauta to provide eight sets of documents, including detailed financial projections.

Besides Iguel and Torres, the four other conferees are Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian).

Basa introduced HB 17-278 in December. It passed the House and was amended by the Senate on Feb. 23.

The governor placed CHC under a state of emergency, and the House had since not acted on the bill until last week. The House rejected the Senate version, leading to the formation of a conference committee to work on a compromise version.

"Unfortunately we're still here….But we're putting all our differences aside," Basa said.

Torres said the $5 million "seed money" given to CHC was what the Fitial administration and the prior leadership at the hospital had wanted. "The Legislature did not reduce that amount that they wanted," he said.

Cruz, for his part, said a compromise bill will be done soon.

House minority leader Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) said it's the Office of the Attorney General that may be holding back the release of a $2 million MPLT check because of its ongoing review of CHC's independent billing contract with an Idaho firm.

He said while he understands the need to review the contract, there is also a need to release the check to CHC so it can continue to properly operate.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said this is false.

"What's holding up the MPLT check is the fact that CHC has yet to satisfy the terms of the memorandum of agreement that was executed prior to the release of the initial check," Demapan said.

The press secretary also said CHC has yet to communicate with the Fitial administration "any closure plans."

Deleon Guerrero said that Fitial already placed CHC under a state of emergency, so the governor has all the power to reprogram funds to help prevent a CHC shutdown.

"I wonder what he's doing about it," he added.

Deleon Guerrero said another worrisome scenario would be if somebody dies because of lack of blood supply at CHC.

Demapan, however, said it is "unfortunate" that some lawmakers "continue to sing the same song over and over again about reprogramming authority."

Torres denies overlap in 2 contracts for hospital billing services

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board chair Joaquin Torres confirmed yesterday the existence of two contractors that are both working on the billing and collection services of the public hospital but denied any overlap in their functions.

The corporation signed a contract with Idaho-based International Consulting Services LLC last Feb. 28, even as it has an existing contract with Guam-based Guam Marianas Collection Agency, executed by the then-Department of Public Health on Nov. 1, 2010.

Torres said that billing and collection is only one part of the scope of work being done by ICS and its focus is only on the present and future collectibles of the Commonwealth Health Center. GMCA's scope of work, on the other hand, covers "old" hospital receivables, he said.

"No. These are two different derivables. ICS is for the revenue cycle management while GMCA is solely for old receivables. Let's not compare apples and orange here," he said yesterday.

Torres

ICS is also tasked to establish a "revenue cycle management" for the corporation, which includes updating its charge master machine to update the rates of each service at the hospital, according to Torres.

ICS' scope of work—called "derivables"—covers 14 areas, while GMCA will work on CHC medical/dental billing and all of its collection services for unpaid hospital bills. ICS is paid on commission at 11 percent in the first three years of its contract and 11.5 percent in the last three years. GMCA is also paid on commission at 10 percent.

Torres believes that having two contracts is not costing the corporation a lot because payment will be made only when something is actually collected by these companies.

He emphasized the need to realize actual collections and revenues for the hospital.

Corrective action

Torres came to the defense of Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta's decision to hire ICS despite admission that the corporation did not follow procurement regulations such as the absence of bidding process.

The Office of the Attorney General recently declared the ICS contract unlawful after it failed to meet the statute's requirements. Torres said that Babauta and the board are taking "corrective actions" since yesterday and have 45 days to do so.

He is hopeful that things will be resolved within the time allowed by the OAG and said that the review and signature of the attorney general will now be incorporated in the new document.

"I think we're missing the big picture here. This is to help address the present crisis in the hospital by improving the system and its revenues and we're confident these people will help us turn around CHC," he added.

Kagman burglary suspect pleads guilty, gets four months in prison

The second suspect in a burglary case at a house in Kagman II pleaded guilty yesterday and was slapped with a four-month prison term.

John Ilo Jr., 23, pleaded guilty to criminal mischief as part of the plea deal. The remaining charges were dropped.

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Ilo to a year in jail, all suspended except for four months, with credit for time served. He will begin serving his sentence on April 23, 2012. Once he gets out, he will be placed on probation for three years.

Ilo was also directed to pay a $200 fine, $25 court assessment fee, plus probation fee, and to pay restitution to the victim. He was also required to perform 50 hours of community service.

Ilo damaged the screen window of the house of Joseph Muna when he broke into the home on Jan. 17, 2012.

Ilo's accomplice, 18-year-old Felix Muna Kileleman, pleaded guilty to the same charge on April 4 and was also sentenced to four months in prison.

Police detective Jeffrey Norita stated in his report that two police officers responded to a burglary report at a house in Kagman III on Jan. 17 at 11:06pm.

The house's owner told the officers that his residence had been burglarized and that a witness saw two persons leaving the place earlier. The witness said the two, whom she identified as Ilo and Kileleman, were carrying two duffle bags.

The two officers later proceeded to Kileleman's residence in Kagman where they met the two suspects. Upon questioning by the officers, Norita said the suspects confessed that they were the ones who burglarized the victim's house.

A crime scene technician returned some of the recovered items, but still missing at the time were a small bolt cutter, a wedding ring, 10 Gerber knives, and three folding chairs, all valued at $1,510. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, May 3, 2012 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan
(Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of April 4, 2012 minutes
5. Public Comments *(not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)*

B. Public Hearings
1. Conditional Use Application #2011-3397: Mr. John Hosono of Top Shot Playstation is proposing to operate paintball games, an Outdoor Amusement game, within a portion of 48,000 square meters of vacant land. This proposal will be located in Sadog Tasi, below Capitol Hill, on track #22616 REM. This area is zoned as Rural Zoning District and may be accessed from the Sadog Tasi Mobil gas station on Isa Drive or the Puerto Rico Shell gas station on Chalan Pale Arnold road.

C. Communications/ Reports

D. Old Business.
1. Update on the proposed Saipan Zoning Law of 2012

E. New Business
1. Office operations report
2. Appointment of new Zoning Administrator

F. Executive (Closed) Session.

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese T. Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
for
Top Shot Playstation

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Mr. John Hosono of Top Shot Playstation is proposing to operate paintball games, an Outdoor Amusement game, within a portion of 48,000 square meters of vacant land. This proposal will be located in Sadog Tasi, below Capitol Hill, on track #22616 REM. This area is zoned as Rural Zoning District and may be accessed from the Sadog Tasi Mobil gas station on Isa Drive or the Puerto Rico Shell gas station on Chalan Pale Arnold road.

Date: **May 03, 2012, Thursday**
Time: **5:00 pm**
Place: **Zoning Board Conference Room,**
2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30pm, May 02, 2012. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Division of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 501304 CK, Saipan, MP 96950-1304
Tel: (670) 664-8500/1 • Fax: (670) 664-8540
Email: environment@deq.gov.mp Website: www.deq.gov.mp

Addendum to RFP12-DEQ-045

Attention all potential bidders for RFP12-DEQ-045 "Development of a Surface Water Quality Assurance Monitoring Plan for Saipan, CNMI": Due to a high volume of questions concerning specifications within this RFP, DEQ will be hosting a pre-proposal meeting for all potential bidders to attend if interested. The meeting will be on Monday, April 23, 2012 at 2pm in the 2nd floor conference room of the DEQ headquarters in Gualo Rai, Saipan. This will be the only opportunity for bidders to have questions answered before the April 25th proposal deadline.

Contact: Kaitlin Mattos (kaitlinmattos@deq.gov.mp) 670-664-8510

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP12-OPA-057

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 03, 2012 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"FINANCIAL AUDIT OF THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE'S CREDIT UNION FOR THE YEARS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2009, 2010 AND 2011"

THE AUDIT GUIDELINES AND SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE PUBLIC AUDITOR'S MAIN OFFICE AT 1236 YAP DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M., MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, EXCEPT HOLIDAYS, OR FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO MR. ROSAURO D. ZAPANTA, ANALYST MANAGER, AT TELEPHONE NUMBERS (670) 322-6481/2 OR BY FACSIMILE TO (670) 322-7812.

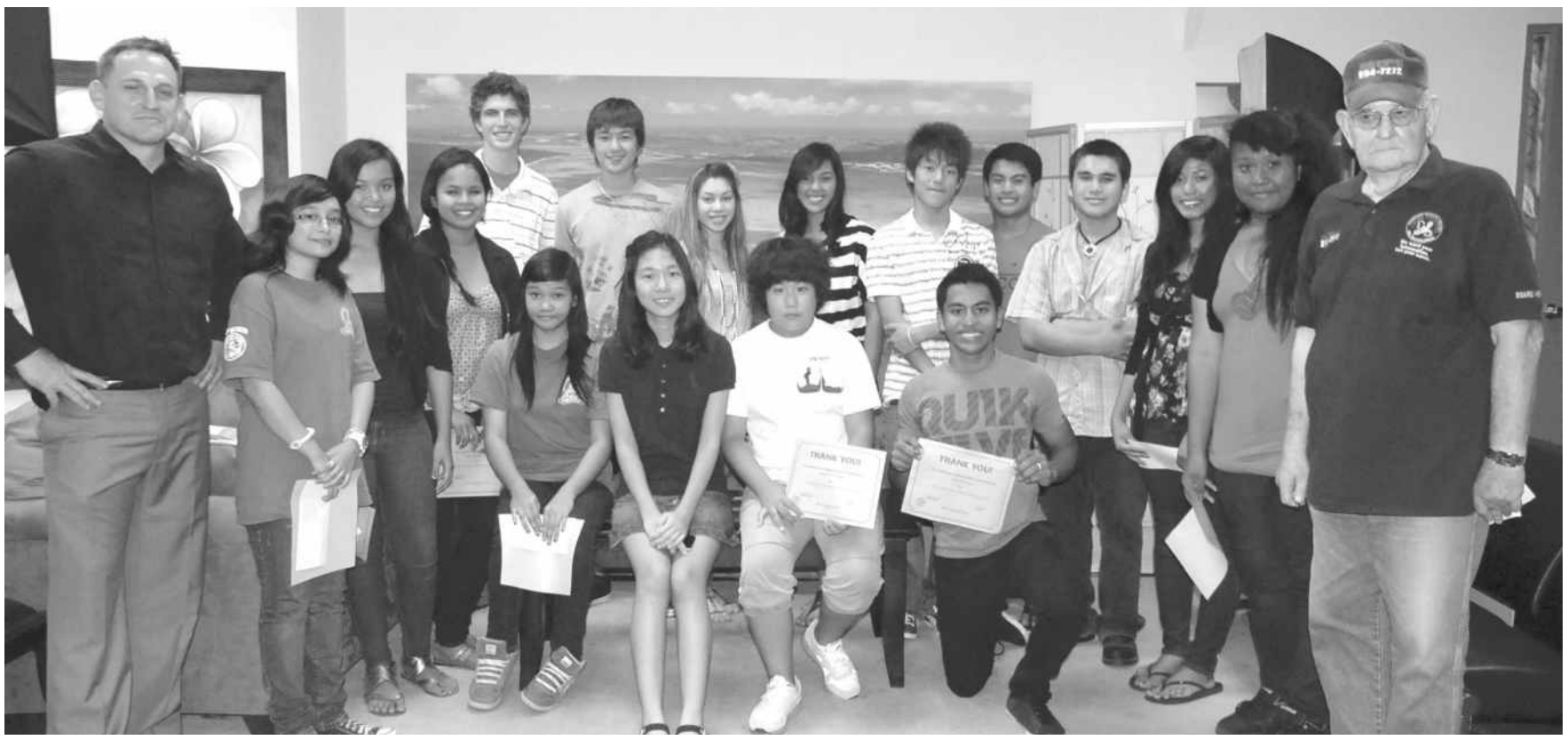
PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118. THE APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ MICHAEL PAI
PUBLIC AUDITOR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ LARRISA C. LARSON
SECRETARY OF FINANCE



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Crime Stoppers board chair Sean E. Frink, left, and member Robert Woodruff, right, join the winning students of the 2012 Create-A-Commercial and Create-A-Poster contests in an awarding ceremony at the KSPN 2 studio on Tuesday.

Crime Stoppers names winners of TV spot, poster making contests

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The winners of the 2012 Crime Stoppers Create-A-Commercial and Create-A-Poster contests were awarded their prizes in a ceremony at the KSPN 2 studio at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe on Tuesday.

Team Northern Marianas Academy bagged the $500 grand prize for the 30-second TV commercial they created in line with the theme "Crimes Against Tourists" prevention, an idea of both Crime Stoppers and the Hotel Association of the NMI.

NMA bested 15 other entries from public and private high school students with an ad spot of a tourist couple who are robbed while at the Last Command Post in Marpi. A witness calls 911 and Crime Stoppers to report the crime.

Accepting the award were Harrison Smith, Evert Van Der Maas, and Josifynn "Peachy" Rasa. Other team members who were not present at the ceremony were Sung Hoon Ham, Ji Hyun Lee, Angel Iglecias, and Sunny Aldan.

Rasa described her first time to join the contest as a "great experience" and urged the public to call Crime Stoppers to report crimes that they witness.

"Our commercial informs the pubic to stop crimes against tourists, especially because we need more tourists here," said Rasa.

Van Der Maas, for his part, said the commercial points out that those who want to remain anonymous when reporting a crime can call Crime Stoppers because they are guaranteed anonymity.

"I had fun doing the commercial. I enjoyed it a lot," he added.

Team NMA's entry will be submitted by August to the national level where entries from various Crime Stoppers units will be judged and awarded during the conference in Las Vegas in October.

Other Create-A-Commercial Contest winners were Team Marianas High School, which placed second and won $300. They are composed of Salvi Villanueva, Joon Lee, Deveney Dela Cruz, and Genesis Mamaril. Third place went to Team Kagman High School, which won $100. Members were Mona Indalecio, Vanessa, Maria Angela, Nonglak Kapileo, Lou Shrine Guevarra, Danielle, Ella, and Eric Flores.

Meanwhile, the Create-A-Poster Contest was for middle school students who submitted entries for the two categories.

The hand-drawn category had a total of 314 entries from three middle schools. Winners were Janice Jung, 8th grader at Saipan International School, first place, $100; Lizelle Lim, 8th grader at Hopwood Jr. High School, second place, $50; Angie Kim, 6th grader at SIS, third place, $25; and Patrick Augustine, 8th grader at HJHS, honorable mention.

For the computer-generated category, there were 26 entries from Hopwood Jr. High School. Winners were Raegine Camacho, first place, $100; Therese Tenorio, second place, $50; and Joyce Alfonso, third place, $25.

Camacho gave credit to her graphic arts teacher, Eric Palacios, who helped her come up with the winning design. "I'm really happy to have won this," she said.

Both contests focused on the hotline and website information and the promise of anonymity for callers of Crime Stoppers, a local non-profit organization led by volunteer citizens against crime.

Board chair Sean E. Frink said this year's turnout was the "best ever" owing to the number, variety, and quality of entries they received.

"The kids really went all out this year. I think a large part of that had to do with the theme," Frink told *Saipan Tribune*. "It's our intent to emphasize the need for the community's involvement and for people to stand up and speak out against crimes, especially against tourists. We're here to support the criminal justice system."

Junior mock trial on Saturday

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is hosting the 2012 Junior High Mock Trial this Saturday, April 21, 2012, at 9am at the Guma' Hustisia, Courtroom 220.

Grace Christian Academy-Rota, Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior/Senior High School, Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Junior High School, and Mount Carmel School are the four teams that will be paired off to argue a hypothetical case in front of lawyer Viola Alepuyo, who will serve as the mock trial judge.

The public is invited to come and observe the students as they apply the skills and knowledge that they learned about the law and courtroom procedures in a professional and non-competitive setting.

For more information, contact Council staff at 235-4785. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW12-IFB-005

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids proposal for the ***Construction of Brown Tree Snake Barrier, Songsong Village Rota***, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after April 19, 2012 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capital Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Fifty Dollars ($150.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. ***Preference is available to US Citizens as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by PublicLaw 15-118, and must be submitted with the BID of preference is claimed.***

There will be a ***Mandatory Pre-bid Conference*** for this project on April 30, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. local time at the Project Site, West Harbor Compound, Songsong Village, Rota. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on May 02, 2012 to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director, Technical Services Division**, DPW Bldg. #1353 Mednilla Avenue, or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW12-IFB-005"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 15, 2012. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 15, 2012, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 15, 2012, and must be received no later than May 24, 2012. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, May 29, 2012, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on May 17, 2012.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond In the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island, and

b) Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payments or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars **(US $100.00)** per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ VICENTE B.CASTRO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Secretary of Land and Natural Resources

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director Procurement and Supply

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,	**Civil Action No. 10-0173-CV**
vs.	
FRANCISCO Q. GUERRERO and BARBARA P. GUERRERO, Defendants.	**NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order Granting Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on November 30, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in the following property: Lot 008 H 19, containing an area of 226 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 008 H 00, the original of which was recorded on March 1, 1971, as Document No. 699 at Land Registry, Saipan. **This location is identified as the former Tapo Shopping building along Beach Road across from the former Pacific Gardenia Building including the commercial building.** The lot is located in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on June 7, 2012, at the hour of 10:00 am, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) Withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) To reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 5003758 CK, Saipan, MP 9695, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.
3. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 28th day of March, 2012.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

2nd round of broadband mapping town hall meetings

One Economy, in cooperation with the CNMI Department of Commerce, BroadMap LLC, and the New America Foundation, will be conducting a second round of village/town hall meetings to present and discuss the recent completion of the CNMI Broadband Mapping Community Survey.

Residents of CNMI reported significant barriers to broadband adoption, especially cost and availability. According to residents, there are significant areas that are completely unserved by broadband, notably on the islands of Tinian and Rota; however, residents of Tinian and Rota place a high importance on having Internet at home. As a result, there are residents who would like to subscribe to the Internet that are not being served.

» A Cisco Flip Video Ultra HD to be raffled off

"We want to share these findings with people and understand whether what we actually found is indeed correct and also ask residents to help fill in the gaps in our data," according to Dan Calarco, director of International Programs, One Economy Corp.

Thomas J. Camacho, the CNMI's community liaison for One Economy Corp., will be conducting the meeting and will be presenting the Community Survey findings.

The meeting dates, location and time for this week are as follows:

■ Thursday, April 19, 2012, 6pm, Room B12, San Antonio Elementary School, Saipan

■ Friday, April 20, 2012, 6pm, cafeteria, Garapan Elementary School, Saipan

Your attendance and participation in this community engagement will help map Internet Access, Usage and Attitudes. One lucky attendee will have a chance to win a Cisco Flip Video Ultra HD. Refreshments will be served.

The program is part of an initiative of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to develop and maintain a comprehensive, interactive, and searchable nationwide map of existing broadband capability and availability throughout each state or territory. In addition, One Economy aims to improve broadband adoption in CNMI by better understanding the barriers to adopting broadband that residents may face. ***(One Economy)***

MMAC committee honors Dr. Jack Hardy

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Dr. Jack Hardy, owner and operator of Images Saipan, Ltd., receives his plaque of appreciation recognizing his years of service as a committee member and senior adviser to the Marianas March Against Cancer committee from the 2012 MMAC committee members in a ceremony on March 20.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer committee presented Dr. Jack Hardy, owner and operator of Images Saipan, Ltd., with a plaque of appreciation recognizing his years of service as a committee member and senior adviser.

"Your commitment to our vision of a cancer-free CNMI is truly appreciated," reads the plaque given to Hardy on March 20.

Catherine Attao-Toves, 2012 MMAC overall committee chair, described Hardy as a "tireless adviser" to the committee since the event's inception 10 years ago.

In fact, Images Saipan is one of the major sponsors for this year's event slated for April 27 to 28 at the Hopwood Jr. High School field in Chalan Piao.

"The expert photography services he provides to the MMAC and the Commonwealth Cancer Association is admirable," said Attao-Toves.

She disclosed that Hardy was also instrumental in initiating the first American Cancer Society Relay for Life in the CNMI, which was before the time of MMAC.

"The MMAC committee is extremely grateful for the guidance and leadership Dr. Hardy has provided us all these years and we'd like to recognize his efforts in the fight against cancer by bestowing on him this unique and significant honor," said Attao-Toves.

MMAC is the largest annual cancer fundraising event in the CNMI and the signature fundraising of CCA, a volunteer-led non-profit organization that promotes cancer awareness through patient support services, awareness programs, and other cancer-related activities.

For more information about CCA, call 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org.

NMC Foundation reschedules golf tourney to June 30

The Northern Marianas College Foundation has announced that the date for the 10th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament has been rescheduled to Saturday, June 30, 2012. The event will take place at the West Course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

The 10th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament is the organization's signature event that aims to raise funds to support and enhance the college's programs and services. The NMC Foundation is composed of volunteers in the community who are committed to improving and enhancing higher education opportunities for people in the CNMI.

With a shotgun start at 7am, the tournament is a medal play format. In addition to first, second and third place prizes for the different flights, the tournament will include hole-in-one prizes. The lucky golfer who makes a hole-in-one shot at the designated sites will win significant prizes donated by the tournament's sponsors.

The entrance fee for the tournament is only $95 per player. Interested players are also invited to bring their family, friends, and playing partners for a fantastic day of fun and fundraising for a good cause. There will be six separate flight categories: Championship, A, B, C, Seniors, and Ladies.

Registration forms can be downloaded from www.nmcnet.edu, or picked up at the at Marianas Country Club, Saipan Country Club, Dan Dan Golf Range, Kingfisher Golf Links, Coral Ocean Point, and All Star Sporting Goods. Payments for the registration fee can be made at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Triple J Motors, and the NMC Cashier.

The NMC Foundation is also asking companies or individuals who can contribute Education Tax Credit, monetary, or in-kind donations to sponsor the tournament. A special sponsors' reception will be held before the tournament. Those interested in sponsoring the event or who are interested in registering to play can contact the Northern Marianas College at 234-5498 Ext. 1502.

For more information on how to donate to the NMC Foundation or to register to play, log on to www.nmcnet.edu or call 234-5498 Ext. 1050. ***(NMC)***

Vendors invited to NMC Charter Day on May 4

The Northern Marianas College is inviting vendors to take part in the College's annual Charter Day celebration on May 4, 2012, Friday.

Agencies, businesses, clubs and other civic organizations are invited to participate in this year's celebration by purchasing booth space for the following categories: food/drink, specialty drinks (e.g., coffee coolers or pearl shakes), game booths, retail (arts, and crafts, toys etc.), and information.

Booth applications forms must be submitted before Thursday, May 3, 2012 by 4pm. Note, however, that booth space is limited so applications should be submitted as soon as possible.

The booth fee is $150 with $25 of the fee refunded to the vendors upon clean up of booth space post-event and passage of inspection from Charter Day officials. For student clubs and nonprofit organizations, booth fees are $75 and also include a $25 refund upon booth space clean up and passage of inspection.

Applications forms are available for download at www.nmcnet.edu, or can be picked up from the NMC Student Center in Building J.

For more information, contact Raynard Travilla at 234-5498 Ext. 1502 or email raynardt@nmcnet.edu. Additional information about NMC Charter Day is also available online at www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 19, 2000

EPA OKs shipment of PCB-laced soil to US

Tanapag villagers received full support from Guam and US Environmental Protection Agency officials after amendments were made to the Toxic Substance Control Act which warrants the shipment of PCB-contaminated soil to mainland. Even Guam Environmental Protection Agency lamented that PCBs from several cleanups are in indefinite storage on the island. These storage areas are subject to damage by frequent typhoons and earthquakes. "The proposed rule would remove a tremendous burden on Guam and ensure that a safe and viable mechanism existed for the protection of health and the environment of Guam and other US territories communities from PCB waste," the EPA report reads.

Arts fest parade called off

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Cultural has canceled its Street Parade scheduled for April 21 from 7am to 9am but added that all other Flame Tree Arts Festival activities and programs will go on as scheduled. The Arts Council will hold the 20th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival back on its original date in April after last year's celebration failed to generate as much following as it did in the past. Last year's three-day festival did not meet the number of people originally expected to troop to the American Memorial Park to take part in the Commonwealth's celebration of island cultures and traditions.

April 19, 2001

Govt spending down by 7.5 percent

Government spending over the first two months of the new administration is down by 7.5 percent compared to the same period last year, representing a $1.7 million drop. The decrease follows the expenditure control directive issued by Gov. Juan N. Babauta in late January for all Executive Branch departments and agencies. "The Lt. Governor and I realized early on the importance of taking immediate action to control spending," said Babauta. "We have more to do, but we are very pleased to see these positive results." Total government expenditures during February and March this year were $21.5 million compared to $23.2 million during the same period in 2001.

DPH adopts new car use plan

With the Babauta administration projecting a $24-million budget deficit this year, the Department of Public Health said it has adopted a new policy on vehicle use as part of its belt-tightening measures. Acting Public Health Secretary James U. Hofschneider said the department is consolidating its vehicles under one office, the Division of Hospital Administration. "The whole purpose is to consolidate vehicles under one division to make sure that we monitor their use, ensure proper maintenance, and also, so that we can share," he said. "In the past, when a vehicle is assigned to a unit, basically the car is kept within that unit," Hofschneider explained.

April 19, 2003

Legislator unconvinced of need to terminate homestead program

House Committee on Natural Resources chairman Rep. Arnold I. Palacios said eliminating the homestead program under the Marianas Public Land Authority is a proposal that would require long talks and lots of justification from the MPLA. MPLA Commissioner Henry Hofschneider had cited the termination of the program as one of the options being explored by the agency amid the scarcity of public lands. But Palacios reminded that the MPLA-the successor of the Marianas Public Land Corporation-is fundamentally mandated under the Constitution to run a homestead program.

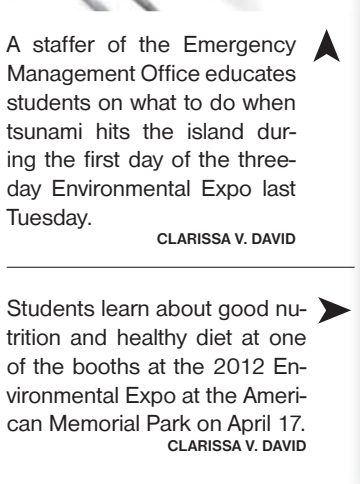
Suspension of drug coverage lifted for GHLI patients

The Hawaii Pacific Medical Referral has now lifted its suspension on prescription drug coverage for Group Health and Life Insurance Program members, which means that GHLI members can now order their drugs again through RxAmerica. The suspension on the pre-certification of patients remains in place, however, which means that GHLI members who go to participating health service providers for treatment may still be asked to pay up-front. This was learned during yesterday's regular meeting of the Fund's Board of Trustees, with Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes reporting that this arrangement was arrived at after a meeting between him and HPMR.

Island Snapshots

ENVIRONMENTAL EXPO
Herman Tudela of the Historic Preservation Office gestures as he talks about fishing tools to students at the first day of the 2012 Environmental Expo at the American Memorial Park on Tuesday.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

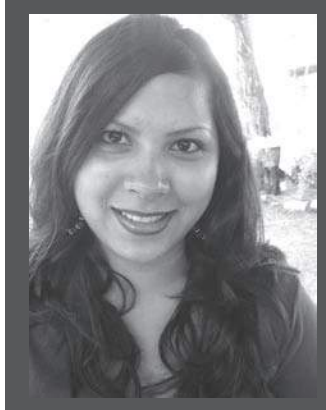
Members of the Youth Environmental Ambassadors from Saipan Southern High School talk about their group to students last April 17 at the 2012 Environmental Expo hosted by the Division of Environmental Quality.
CLARISSA V. DAVID



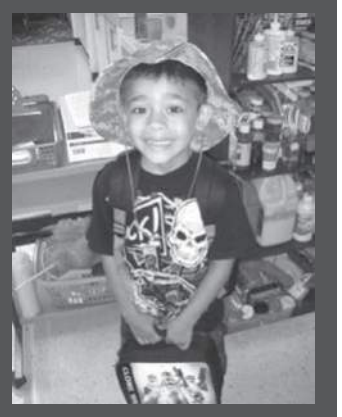
A staffer of the Emergency Management Office educates students on what to do when tsunami hits the island during the first day of the three-day Environmental Expo last Tuesday.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

Students learn about good nutrition and healthy diet at one of the booths at the 2012 Environmental Expo at the American Memorial Park on April 17.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

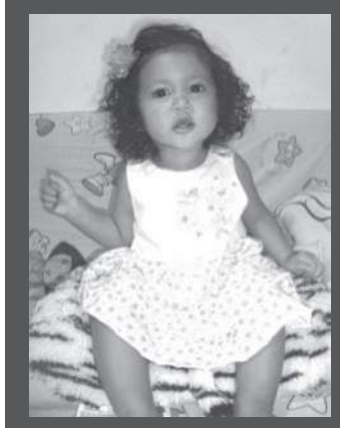
BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy Birthday Ryan "Randu Boy" Guerrero Duenas! May this day bring all the things that mean the most to you, Wish you a BIG BITE of fun on your birthday. HAPPY BIRTHDAY ! Thinking of you on your special day your cousins Tricia and Baby Joe Santos.

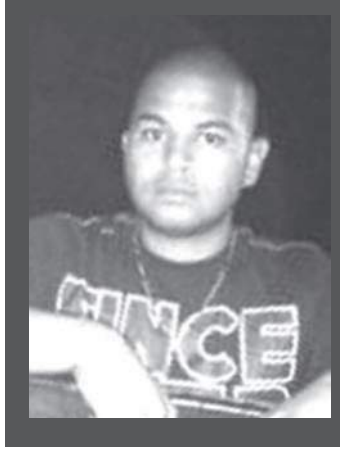


Happy birthday to Sheena F. Maratita, who is celebrating her special day today, April 19! May your day be filled with lots of blessings and love. Have a great one. Love always, your Maraflo family!
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday greetings go out to our Princess Ariany Kailey G. Camacho! May God bless you today, tomorrow, and always. You are growing quickly but forever you will be our little princess. May your day be filled with lots of blessings, love, and more wonderful birthdays to come. Love always, Mommy, Daddy, and your loving families.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Drin, who is celebrating his birthday today.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday Junjun! Enjoy your special day. We love you.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FIRE VICTIMS
Authorities interview and comfort some of the families affected by Monday's fire in San Jose. The cause of the blaze has yet to be determined. No one was hurt in the incident.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ILLEGAL CARS
Customs director Jesus Muna walks past four seized illegal vehicles manufactured in Japan that did not meet U.S. standards, prior to their dismantling and crushing six years after the CNMI Customs Services Division seized them.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Tsunami alert: Don't cut that program

The following editorial appeared in the Los Angeles Times *on Tuesday, April 17:*

After last week's earthquake in the Indian Ocean, people in Indonesia responded far differently than they had seven years earlier, after another major quake: They evacuated low coastal areas to escape a possible tsunami.

As it turned out, there were no killer tidal surges for various reasons, including the type of earth movement involved. Still, the response was a welcome improvement. The 2004 earthquake and tsunami killed close to 200,000 people in Southeast Asia; many of those victims had no idea of the impending danger. And the change this time was due in good part to an Indian Ocean tsunami warning system put in place since that catastrophe.

Strange that at the same time, President Obama is proposing small but damaging cuts to the tsunami warning system in the waters surrounding this country.

Another irony is that the bigger of the two cuts is the less damaging. In its proposed budget for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Obama is looking to slice about $3.5 million from the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program, which provides grants to states for education of emergency staff, mapping and evacuation plans. That represents a fourth of that program's budget, but NOAA can continue many of these services through the National Weather Service's TsunamiReady program.

A much smaller budget reduction—$1 million—would be made in the nation's network of specially equipped buoys that monitor tidal surges in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans as well as the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico, and relay the information to Hawaii and the mainland. Many of the buoys already are in a state of disrepair, and though the reduction represents only about 10 percent of this program's budget, NOAA estimates that it would diminish the system to 72 percent capacity.

The devastating March 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan killed thousands of people, but the country's sophisticated tsunami warning system is credited with saving thousands of lives.

In the United States, Hawaii is known for its history of tragic tsunamis, especially those in 1946 and 1960. Crescent City, at the northern edge of California, also has experienced deadly tidal surges. The 2011 Japan earthquake caused about $60 million in tsunami damage in California and Oregon, most notably in Crescent City.

It would be a foolish move to impair the nation's warning system for coastal cities in order to realize trivial savings. Congress should restore the buoy funding.

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A-ri-rang, Are We One?

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

The month of August is when Pyongyang opens its immigration gates to visitors from the West including the eagle-embossed blue-passport-bearing ones. Or at least that was what I was told two years ago when I visited Dandong on the China side of the Yalu Jiang separating Zhongguo from what the Western press likes to derisively designate as the "Hermit Kingdom" of the young "dictator" Kim Jong Un.

Dandong is only a few short miles from the site of the third rocket test that sent the West into a frenzy of calibrated fear in spite of the fact that this third primitive one could not hit a huge air balloon hovering the skies of the old Cotton Ball football stadium in Dallas.

The old civilization initiated by the Han Lao Shi Kung Fu Zi (teacher Confucius to John and Mary) evolved into an observance of form over function, and the occasional parade of rockets and armaments, common in China and North Korea (also true in the old Japan before it lowered its sights on military displays, and South Korea under the heavy hand of restraint by its Pentagon mentors), is more an exercise on ceremonial spectacle for the national pride than anything else.

When we first visited Seoul in '72, Walker Hill was Uncle Sam's filthy rich military base while farmers drove their peach stalks to the ground and the ladies soured their cabbages into *kim chee* for the winter. The hills around the city were military installations and foreign visitors were told in no uncertain terms that they were to keep their fingers off the shutters of their cameras!

I asked a colleague why the fuzz and he answered that half of the country was under American occupation. Not unlike the teachers and missionaries that followed the flannel-shirted veterans of the Indian Wars into Roosevelt's Philippines, the U.S. Infantry forces that saw action during the early '50s turmoil in the Korean Peninsula were swiftly followed by the Presbyterians, Methodists, and Catholics with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in tow, converting the terrain into an extension of the Midwest.

Almost 60 years later after the Armistice, South Korea has virtually become the 51st State of the Union, with Uncle Sam lifting the visa requirements of SoKor citizens to U.S. sovereign land, and a third of the population lit up with evangelical seal as they establish Korean congregations around the world. I know of a couple of very active ones on Saipan who have made the old category "missionary" unusually high in number in the CNMI.

The old Korean *Arirang* was co-opted as a marching music in the U.S. Infantry. We know of it in our youth when it became popular after 1953 when Filipino soldiers returned from the Korean conflict. When I ran into my old colleague on my first visit to Seoul 20 years later and asked him how the old country was faring, he said with a straight face: it is still under American occupation.

Ideology has been used to keep the Panmunjom 38th parallel line in being but one song sang on both sides is about the old imaginary mountain pass toward a longed-after hill titled *Arirang*. We deign invite the wrath of *Hanggul Saram* friends for giving their beloved tune new words. Here goes our paean from *Yanbian* (Korea in China):

Are we one, are ye one, are we but two-o-o?
Are we one, are we two, in despair, too?

Kim Rhim Park Kwak
Kwan Han Rhee Yi Goh Soh
Kang Wang Choi Roi
Won Son and Doh Roh

Are we one, are ye one, or are ye two-o-o?
Are ye one, are ye two, old Kogoryo?

Amnok-gang Nakbong-gang
Duman-gang Han-gang
Baekdu-san Taebaek-san, we are one.

Are we one, are ye one, are we still two-o-o?
Are we one, are we two, Hanggul duo?

We do live in Nampo to Jeju do,
North in Musan, south in Busan, also.

We are one, sing as one, a-ra-ri-yo
To create the earth, we will all start anew.

There's a newness ar-i-sing in the East
Bind the earth around A-ri-rang feast.

We are one, we are one, we can all be, too.
A-ri-rang, Hangguk of the Hanggul duo.

There are folks determined to keep people apart by ideology, ethnicity, nationality, and/or economic class. There are equally many who see the virtue of a round table and the processes that sustain it, rather than be strait-jacketed in the neatly divided square table of debates and squabbles. This choice is a matter of faith, fundamental to one's view and, therefore to one's behavior. Uncle Sam dines on a square table.

A new earth calls. What does your faith do?

I'd better make sure the old blue book is current in case we get the chance to cross the Yalu this August.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

This Earth Day, eat as if the environment matters

By HEATHER MOORE
PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

How do you plan to commemorate Earth Day, April 22? I'm going to pick up litter at a nearby river, recycle, use cloth shopping bags and, most important, eat environmentally friendly vegan foods. Research shows that most animal-based foods, including meat, cheese, fish and eggs, come with a supersized carbon footprint and require colossal amounts of land, water and other resources.

According to the Environmental Working Group—which calculated the environmental impact of 20 conventionally grown foods—59.6 pounds of carbon dioxide and methane are produced for every 2.2 pounds of beef eaten. That's a lot of environmental damage just for a few hamburgers.

If you eat a cheeseburger, you're doing even more damage—to your health and to the planet—since 29.7 pounds of carbon dioxide are produced for every 2.2 pounds of cheese you eat. To make matters worse, meat and dairy production also contribute to water pollution and other environmental problems. Just one cow can produce 140 pounds of manure each day. Factory-farm waste often seeps into our waterways, sickening people and killing aquatic life.

Manure from chicken farms in the "Broiler Belt," extending from eastern Texas through the southeastern United States to Maryland and Delaware, is virtually choking the Chesapeake Bay. According to the Pew Environment Group, the 523 million chickens raised and killed each year in Maryland and Delaware alone generate enough waste to fill the dome of the U.S. Capitol about 50 times, or almost once a week.

That really makes the "Save the Bay" T-shirt I wore when I was in high school—when I ate double-cheeseburgers and chicken sandwiches—seem like a rather empty gesture.

The chicken poop really hits the fan when you consider that 70 percent of all agricultural land—30 percent of the land surface of the planet—is used to raise animals for food. More than half of the world's crops are used to feed farmed animals, who consume five times as much grain as all the humans in the United States.

But fish isn't an environmentally friendly option, either. Every 2.2 pounds of canned tuna produces 13.4 pounds of greenhouse gasses. Farmed salmon have an even higher carbon footprint, since they're fed wild-caught fish—it can take 3 pounds or more of wild-caught fish to produce a single pound of farmed salmon.

Fortunately, vegan foods have a child-size carbon footprint and require few resources compared to animal-based foods. For example, it takes 10 times less fossil fuel—and nearly 4,000 fewer gallons of water per day—to produce plant-based foods than to produce animal-based ones.

If you want to be green—on Earth Day and every other day of the year—then eat green. Enjoy fresh produce, eat bean burritos instead of beef burritos and explore new vegan foods, such as marinated tofu kebabs, curried chickpeas and falafel. If you're going to a ballgame, order a veggie dog rather than a hot dog—pork is the fourth most environmentally harmful food on the EWG's list. If you're going to pick up litter by a waterway, remember that factory-farm runoff is a leading source of water pollution and opt for a vegan lunch, such as a veggie burger or some lentil soup. The planet, animals and your body will be better off.

Heather Moore is a staff writer for the PETA Foundation.

Letters to the Editor

Governor, Fund board are right

Governor Fitial and the Retirement Fund were both right in their decisions to save the Fund. The bankruptcy declaration by the board came less than a week after my public prediction that it would happen, adding another "I told you so" to my credit. The governor has certainly offered the best solution by changing Article 11 to save the Fund, which will virtually repay the hundreds of millions owed by the government to the Fund. Needless to say, the governor has solved most of the problem and the only question is who and when will the work start to make sure the governor's solution is implemented.

Having the solution and no one to do the work is useless because getting the amendment to the ballot and getting it passed can't be done from the Governor's Office or the boardroom, which is part of the reason I offered my services. It doesn't take a political scientist to know the amendment is really the Fund's amendment and salvation. It is going to take leadership of the board on the ground working with retirees, the Legislature, the governor and the voting public to fix this major problem. Someone is going to have to roll up their sleeves and do the work.

The Retirement board finally pulled the trigger to end all the speculation and after assessing all the options it is clear they chose the best option that would allow them to fix the problem. All the lawsuits and speculation about receiverships and attorneys are now moot issues. The board can now concentrate on keeping the Fund alive and fixing the major problem of getting the infusion of cash needed to restore the Fund's financial integrity.

Most readers know the governor and I have often differed in the past and that I have been the most outspoken about our differences. But the governor has proven to me he is a bigger man in his willingness to listen to what I have to offer. Just as he has changed his heart politically and rejoined the GOP, I have to be willing to change my heart and join him, especially if there is going to be any real hope of truly fixing the problem. I can't allow our differences of the past to adversely affect the future and I'm sure the governor will agree, especially when there are so many futures at stake in all the retirees, non-retired and their families.

Sixto was the first to realize the board needed help on the ground, which is how Hienz was offered the contract. But more importantly is the fact that the governor and the board both need help on the ground, which is why a politician would not have been the best choice. First and foremost, the governor's proposed amendment needs a little tweaking before it is capable of being passed. Secondly, the governor and the Fund board must realize and accept the responsibility of getting the amendment passed on the ballot—do the work on the ground. And finally, the governor and the Fund must create a mechanism to educate retirees and voters on the amendment as there is no room for errors. We certainly can't expect the amendment to pass simply because it is on the ballot—someone has to do the work. The board is also going to need someone to help them with retirees in the bankruptcy matters, so help is obviously needed.

I have witnessed all kinds of things since I began to look into this matter and not all retirees are on the same page, which tells me the rest of the stakeholders may also be on different pages. The bankruptcy declaration forces everyone to get on the same page and work together to save the Fund or it is going to die!

I see the bankruptcy issue as really being secondary to getting the governor's amendment passed, which fixes the entire problem—so we shouldn't lose sight of the prize because of the smoke in the air caused by the bankruptcy filing. As Sixto said in the news, the bankruptcy should cause everyone to work together because we have no choice but to restore the integrity of the Fund.

There has been a lot of talk and little action taken by the Legislature but I'm still concerned with who is going to do the work to get the governor's amendment fixed, on the ballot, and passed by the voters. The governor's amendment may not pass as presently written but it is the answer to the Fund's $300 million question that voters will answer because the amendment represents 99 percent of the Fund's solution. If the amendment passes, the Fund's problem is fixed—end of story. It is just that simple and easy to resolve but someone has to do the work and the work should have started a long time ago!

So I hope the governor, the board, retirees and voters can understand why I have been so persistent because I'm so afraid that by the time the powers-that-be can react and do the work, the Fund will already be dead! Reiterating my sincere appreciation to the governor for his consideration and hopefully the work can get started to save the Fund that is now officially in ICU! It should be clear now that every stakeholder in the Fund needs to try their very best to be part of the solution and not part of the problem.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Fund deserves support, not criticisms

I am dismayed by the attacks on the Retirement Fund staff, its board of trustees, and its attorneys in regard to their secrecy in the process of deciding to declare Chapter 11 bankruptcy for the Fund.

If the Fund's decision had come before the Legislature as a recommendation, does anyone in their right mind think it would have been accepted, or passed, without self-serving amendments —much less within a reasonable time frame?

If the Fund had announced its intention without submitting it to the Legislature, does anyone think it would have been allowed to happen? You can bet that the Legislature would have come up with a hurriedly put together law banning such conduct, or a retiree would have been found to place a stop order in the court, or the administration might have issued a ban via executive directive.

What the Fund board, staff, and attorneys have come up with is a perfect solution. The Fund doesn't dissolve, it remains in existence. There's a two-month cushion to give everyone time to adjust. There's a promised time-frame of 4-6 months, which may become painful, but is tolerable. There is the assurance of participation of retirees in the process, which is essential for acceptance. And there is the intent to restructure the pension system, so that it will last longer than the 2-3 years currently predicted. All to be done outside of the political arena—so that no one can grandstand, no one can play games, no one can corrupt the process.

What's more, they took all the right steps to inform everyone once the decision was made. First came the governor and the Legislature. Then the media. Then the members themselves. All in the period of just a few hours. And the news went out, in full, via e-mail as well.

The Legislature, the administration and the Commonwealth Retirement Association had their chance. They could have come up with the same solution. But largely because of politics, not one of them had even come close to finding as workable an answer to the Fund's problems.

The Fund board, staff and attorneys deserve praise and thanks for doing what needed to be done, doing it so well, and doing it, finally, so timely. They deserve support, not criticism.

Ruth L. Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

Respect for nature

Anything on public lands is a public good and belongs to nature. The new public law dealing with hot pepper—I believe this is the "donni sali" one—is better dealt with for preservation and regulation of the natural plant by licensing policy. If you want to pick "donni sali" on public lands, you simply require that one obtain a license and pay a fee for the right to enter a public land and harvest this plant. In due time, all will learn and perfect this practice. The Tinian case will be a basket microcosm for our purpose, and a host governmental agency would apply licensing protocol as revenue sources for the harvesting and removal of plants and animals in the wild. If there is over harvesting, the administering agency should declare that situation and halt further harvest licensing in the meantime, and allow for the plants or animals to recover over a period of time.

The indigenous community of these islands were once a hunting and food gathering society. They worked with nature and let nature made the natural adjustments. If the ancient Chamorro people of these islands prospered with their food gathering and hunting tradition, and it came with coercive undifferentiated social standards, modern man would certainly have enough foresight and competency to respect and enjoy nature as well. Somehow economic production and products made modern man more interested in materialism and his struggle with nature is dismissed as a nuisance. The "me" mentality overruled the common care and good in that take-everything-that-you-can-get-from-what-nature-provides is the norm, and expecting in return that nature would magically return a favor in abundance. It is foolish for anyone to think this way. But we can only do so much today in this materialistic society because of the diversity of ethnicity on these islands and some people just do not give due respect to the public good of these public lands. It hopeful that one day man and nature would adjust and self-correct itself as God intended and created it to be.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly sunny with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

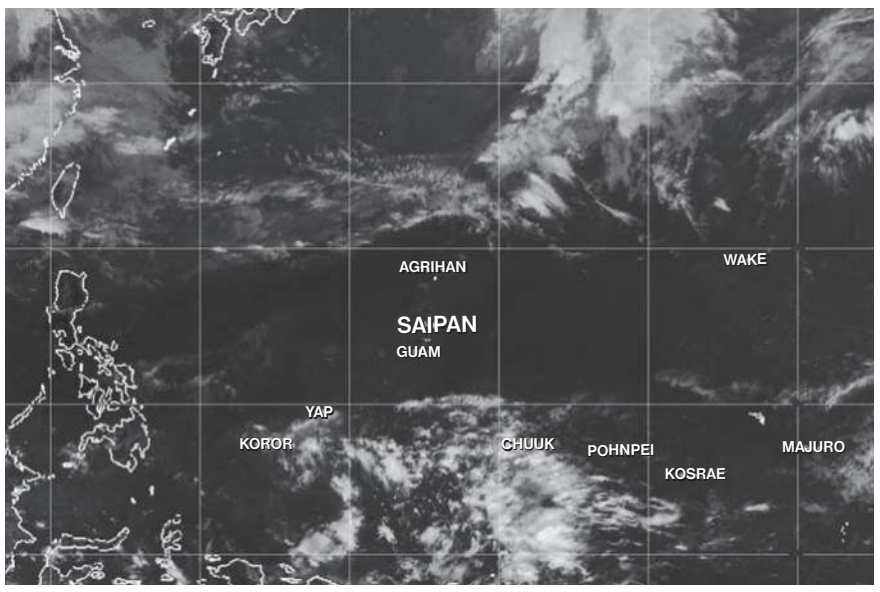
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲89	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲90	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲67	▼55
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲81	▼52
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲82	▼76
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼70
London	Showers	▲53	▼44
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼56
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲96	▼80
Melbourne	Showers	▲76	▼56
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼72
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼49
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲70	▼56
Paris	Showers	▲57	▼43
Pusan	Showers	▲65	▼54
Rome	Showers	▲63	▼51
Salem	Showers	▲58	▼42
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼53
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼50
Tokyo	Showers	▲64	▼53
Washington, DC	Showers	▲59	▼51

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-stationary front curves southwestward from 25N148E to beyond 19N130E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring along and up to 220 miles northwest of the front. Converging winds east of the front are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of Minami Tori Shima north of a line from 21N142E to 22N153E. A surface trough extends northward from EQ140E to 9N139E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found southeast of Yap and Koror south of a line from 7N136E to 7N144E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers from near and southwest of Chuuk to south of Pohnpei south of a line from 8N145E to 9N151E to 5N155E to 3N163E and east of Majuro within 160 miles of a line from 6N172E to 8N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:27 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
7:18 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
2:03 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
8:12 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Sunday	5:59 AM	6:33 PM
Monday	5:58 AM	6:33 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:20 AM	4:54 PM
Friday	4:58 AM	5:42 PM
Saturday	5:37 AM	6:30 PM
Sunday	6:17 AM	7:19 PM
Monday	7:00 AM	8:08 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

The Wall Street heretic who called Apple's swoon

NEW YORK (AP)—He calls himself an "Apple fanboy," owns four iPads and two iPhones, follows the company obsessively and predicts it will keep turning blockbuster profits. But whether you should own the stock is another matter.

He says it's just not worth it.

No one is sure why Apple's stock finally stopped rising last week, but you might point a finger at Walter Piecyk, a veteran analyst who apparently has uncanny timing when it comes to issuing critical reports on hot companies.

After Piecyk published a bold attack on Apple last week, the stock fell five days in a row, wiping out 10 percent of the company's market value, or $53 billion—about what the most optimistic projections say Facebook is worth.

As if anticipating the drop, and perhaps the hate mail, Piecyk listed a dozen Apple products he owns, and why his family loves them, in his report April 9. He titled the section: "Am I an Apple Hater?"

"It's not about the products," Piecyk said in an interview Tuesday, as the stock finally broke its losing streak. "It's whether the stock discounts all the risks."

Piecyk thinks one big risk is that Apple could have a harder time selling iPhones if phone companies stop subsidizing most of the $600 purchase price for customers who trade in old models, as they have in the past.

He noted that AT&T has stopped paying for upgrades of iPhones for customers in two-year contracts. Piecyk expects Apple to sell 27.5 million iPhones this quarter, down from 33 million the three months before.

But the details of his argument seemed to matter less than his decision to remove Apple from his list of "buy" stocks.

In the heavily bullish analyst community, it was a heretical move. When Piecyk published the report, titled "Downgrading Apple to Neutral," trader blogs lit up with criticism—and some praise, as much for his courage as for his views.

Of the 48 analysts who cover Apple, eight have a "hold" on the stock, according to FactSet, a provider of financial data. No one rates it "sell."

Whether everyday investors were even aware of Piecyk's report is unclear, and how much it had to do with the sell-off is impossible to determine.

AP

This April 5, 2012 photo shows the company logo at the Apple Store in London.

Others have pointed to a federal investigation into how Apple and publishers set the prices for e-books, and rumors that the company will launch a smaller version of the iPad that might hurt sales of higher-priced models.

Then there is the easiest, perhaps best, explanation.

"I think it was due for profit-taking," said Shaw Wu, an analyst at brokerage Sterne Agee. "The stock has gone vertical."

Apple traded at about $100 in March 2009. It climbed steadily for three years and reached $405 at the end of 2011. Then it really took off—a gain of more than 50 percent in three months.

Apple closed at an all-time high of $636.23 on April 9, the same day Piecyk issued his report. By Monday, it had fallen to about $580.

Piecyk, 40, has been calling stocks for more than a decade. He was an analyst at Paine Webber before jumping to several small brokers. He said he likes that his current employer, BTIG, a broker for institutional investors, doesn't help companies bring stocks and bonds to the market, which otherwise could present a conflict of interest.

Critics of Wall Street analysts say fear of losing that lucrative business, known as underwriting, explains why many analysts tend to be bullish on the companies they cover.

Piecyk said he believes that phone carriers are tired of seeing their profit eroded by the subsidies they pay to keep iPhone customers on their networks. He noted that AT&T's subsidies explain why its own profit margins in its wireless business have fallen from 44 percent to below 30 percent in just two years.

Wu, the Sterne Agee analyst, said he doesn't think subsidies will be cut because the iPhone attracts customers, helping subscriber growth, and those customers spend more on data.

Wu predicted that Apple will hit $750 within a year and has a "buy" rating on the stock.

Among other criticisms, Piecyk thinks investors may have overestimated the willingness of customers in China, Brazil and other developing countries—big targets for Apple—to shell out $600 for an iPhone.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

IKEA to sell TV's integrated into its furniture

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Already the one-stop shop for smart and compact home furnishing, IKEA is venturing into the world of technology—with the IKEA TV. The new furniture range, named UPPLEVA, the Swedish word for experience, integrates an LED TV, a sound system with wireless bass speakers, an internet connection and CD, DVD and Blu-ray players—all in one self-assembly piece. Although the TV and the other electronics are made by Chinese manufacturer TCL, IKEA has built everything around them, hiding the masses of cables that can be a nuisance and make a living room look shabby. To further simplify things, IKEA and TCL have combined all the controls into a single remote. The furniture surface is especially designed to allow the remote's signals through, so the devices can remain hidden from view. The TV screens are available in four different sizes, from 24 inches to 46 inches, and in a range of colors including gray, black and blue. Users are also able to plug in their iPods or other MP3 music players.

Auto industry faces slowdown of key material

DETROIT (AP)—Automakers are scrambling to figure out whether they'll have to stop production for a while in response to a shortage of a key component in fuel and braking systems that a chemical maker says could last three months or longer. After an explosion damaged a German factory last month, Evonik Industries said Tuesday that repairs to restore the plant to functioning will take three months or longer. The factory makes a chemical called CDT that's an ingredient in a resin called PA-12 that's used in auto fuel lines and brake lines as well as solar cells and sporting goods. "We are making every effort to repair the plant as soon as possible. It will take at least three months for sure, but we are doing everything to have it repaired before winter," Evonik spokesman Thomas Lange said in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

Warren Buffett says he has early prostate cancer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Warren Buffett told his company's shareholders in an open letter Tuesday that he has been diagnosed with early-stage prostate cancer.

The 81-year-old billionaire investor and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. said his condition is "not remotely life-threatening" or debilitating. He said he and his doctors have decided on a two-month treatment plan that is to begin in mid-July.

"I feel great—as if I were in my normal excellent health," Buffett said in the letter. "And my energy level is 100 percent. I discovered the cancer because my PSA level (an indicator my doctors had regularly checked for many years) recently jumped beyond its normal elevation and a biopsy seemed warranted."

Buffett said he was diagnosed April 11 and has received tests including a CAT scan, a bone scan and an MRI.

Buffett

Buffett is known for a no-nonsense approach to investing. He is one of the world's richest men and, in recent years, has become one of its most generous philanthropists.

Buffett's stake in Berkshire Hathaway was worth more than $43 billion as of December.

He told shareholders in February that Berkshire's board has chosen someone to succeed him as CEO—someday—and he said there are two backup candidates.

None of the three has been identified.

Buffett said then that last year's departure of a top executive, David Sokol, did not affect the board's choice for successor.

Buffett has said Berkshire plans to split his job into three parts with a CEO, a chairman and several investment managers. And he has said his son Howard, a member of Berkshire's board, would make an ideal chairman.

The AFL-CIO, as a major investor, has proposed that Berkshire shareholders be able to vote at their annual meeting in May on whether the company should be compelled to disclose more specifics about its succession plan.

Berkshire owns more than 80 companies, including clothing, furniture, brick and jewelry firms. Its insurance, railroad and utility businesses typically account for more than half of its net income. It also has major investments in such companies as American Express Co., International Business Machines Corp., Washington Post Co. and Wells Fargo & Co.

Coca-Cola expanding reach worldwide for profit

NEW YORK (AP)—The Coca-Cola Co. is continuing to expand its reach worldwide and turning to a variety of smaller drink sizes to boost profits and keep rising commodity costs in check.

The world's biggest soda maker on Tuesday reported better-than-expected profit for its first quarter as it sold more of its drinks around the globe.

Although the volume growth came from all regions, Coke said increases were far greater in emerging markets. In the region encompassing Russia, India, the Middle East and Africa, for example, volume grew 9 percent, compared with a 2 percent increase in North America.

The Atlanta-based company, which has more than 500 brands including Fanta, Sprite and Minute Maid, also had strong growth beyond its sodas as consumers have become more concerned about consuming too many empty calories. Global volume for bottled water grew 15 percent in the quarter, while volume for energy drinks rose 25 percent. That surpassed the volume gains in the company's namesake Coca-Cola soda, which increased 4 percent.

Even the slight bump in volume in North America was driven largely by the company's Powerade sports drinks, Dasani bottled water and zero-calorie vitaminwater.

Despite the competition and market saturation at home, CEO Muhtar Kent said: "We believe North America is a growth market for our business."

Total revenue was $11.14 billion for the three months ended March 30, up 6 percent from $10.52 billion a year ago. Analysts expected revenue of $10.82 billion for the latest quarter.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
13,115.54	1,390.78	3,042.82
+194.13	+21.21	+54.42
+1.40%	+1.55%	+1.82%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9650	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7598	Philippine Peso	42.8082
British Pound	0.6283	Indian Rupee	52.2739	Singapore Dollar	1.2499
Canadian Dollar	0.9958	Indonesian Rupiah	9,199.6	South Korean Won	1,138.0
Chinese Yuan	6.3191	Japanese Yen	80.5802	Swiss Franc	0.9155
Euro	0.7617	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0696	Taiwan Dollar	29.5421
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2208	Thailand Baht	30.8547

Nation

Prostitution scandal ricochets through Washington

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Secret Service prostitution scandal escalated Tuesday with the disclosure that at least 20 women had been in hotel rooms with U.S. agents and military personnel just before President Barack Obama arrived for a summit with Latin American leaders. The head of the Secret Service said he had referred the matter to an independent government investigator.

Secret Service Director Mark Sullivan, shuttling between briefings for lawmakers on Capitol Hill, was peppered with questions about whether the women had access to sensitive information that could have jeopardized Obama's security.

Sullivan said the 11 Secret Service agents and 10 military personnel under investigation were telling different stories about who the women were. Sullivan has dispatched more investigators to Colombia to interview the women, said Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee.

"Some are admitting (the women) were prostitutes, others are saying they're not, they're just women they met at the hotel bar," King said in a telephone interview. Sullivan said none of the women, who had to surrender their IDs at the hotel, were minors. "But prostitutes or not, to be bringing a foreign national back into a secure zone is a problem."

AP

In this March 10, 2011 file photo, House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y. speaks on Capitol Hill in Washington.

King said it appeared the agency actually had "really lucked out." If the women were working for a terrorist organization or other anti-American group, King said, they could have had access to information about the president's whereabouts or security protocols while in the agents' rooms.

"This could have been disastrous," King said.

The burgeoning scandal has been a growing election-year embarrassment for Obama, who has said he would be angry if the allegations proved to be true.

At the White House, Obama was asked at the end of a Rose Garden event whether he believed Sullivan should resign. The president ignored the shouted inquiries; his spokesman later Obama had confidence in the Secret Service chief.

"Director Sullivan acted quickly in response to this incident and is overseeing an investigation as we speak into the matter," White House press secretary Jay Carney said.

On Thursday, eleven Secret Service agents were recalled to the U.S. from Colombia and placed on administrative leave after a night of partying that allegedly ended with at least some bringing prostitutes back to their hotel. On Monday, the agency announced that it also had revoked the agents' security clearances.

At least 10 U.S. military personnel staying at the same hotel were also being investigated for their role in the alleged misconduct.

Two U.S. military officials said they include five Army Green Berets. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity about an investigation that is still under way.

One of the officials said the group also includes two Navy Explosive Ordinance Disposal technicians, two Marine dog handlers and an Air Force airman. The Special Forces Green Berets were working with Colombia's counterterrorist teams, the official said.

The agents and service members were in Colombia setting up security ahead of Obama's three-day trip to the port city of Cartagena for a summit attended by about 30 other world leaders.

People briefed on the incident said the agents brought women back to Cartagena's Hotel Caribe, where other members of the U.S. delegation and the White House corps also were staying. Anyone visiting the hotel overnight was required to leave identification at the front desk and leave the hotel by 7 a.m. When a woman failed to do so, by this account, it raised questions among hotel staff and police, who investigated. They found the woman with the agent in a hotel room and a dispute arose over whether the agent should have paid her.

While the identities of those being investigated have not been revealed, Maryland Republican Senate candidate Daniel Bongino told The Associated Press Tuesday that his brother, an agent who was on duty in Colombia, is "cooperating" with the investigation. Bongino, a former agent himself, insisted that his brother was not a target of the investigation.

Space shuttle Discovery takes a few victory laps

CHANTILLY, Va. (AP)—The space shuttle Discovery went out in high-flying style.

After three spectacular spins above the nation's capital, the world's most traveled spaceship completed its final flight and was ready to become a grounded museum relic.

But what an exit. Discovery took victory laps around the White House, the Capitol and the Washington Monument that elicited cheers and awe—the same sounds and emotions that used to accompany every thunderous launch.

Bolted to the top of a modified jumbo jet, the shuttle took off at daybreak Tuesday from Cape Canaveral, Fla. Three hours later, the combo took a few final swoops around Washington at an easy-to-spot 1,500-foot altitude.

"It was pretty amazing," said 12-year-old Riley Jacobsen of Bethesda, Md. "Pretty freaking crazy. It looked like it was inflated."

Sorena Sorenson, a geology curator for the Smithsonian Institution, was among thousands watching from the National Mall. For 43 years, she has carried an Apollo 11 medal on her keychain.

"This to me is just so bittersweet," she said.

People filled the Capitol balcony and stood on rooftops to catch a glimpse of Discovery as it circled three times through partly cloudy skies. Construction workers staked out prime viewing spots on cranes.

The nostalgia extended to the crew at the controls of the 747. "The sad part is we're retiring a very well-oiled machine," pilot Bill Rieke said.

After landing at Dulles International Airport in northern Virginia, the shuttle will undergo final preparations to go on display Thursday at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum annex near the airport.

"We pledge to take care of her forever," said retired Gen. John R. "Jack" Dailey, the museum's director. The shuttle will show young visitors "what America is capable of."

John Porcari, 13, came out to Dulles because his dad is an administrator with the Transportation Department. He said he was blown away by Discovery's size when it landed.

"It's huge," he said. "That's something you don't realize from seeing pictures."

The landing "was just unbelievable," said John, who would like to work in the space program someday. "This is history right here."

NASA ended the shuttle program last summer after a 30-year run to focus on destinations beyond low-Earth orbit. Discovery—the fleet leader with 39 orbital missions—is the first of the three retired shuttles to be turned over to a museum. It first launched in 1984.

Final flights

More than 20 institutions around the country applied to display the retiring space shuttles. Where the shuttles ended up:

The fleet

Shuttle	Flights
Columbia	28
Challenger	10
Discovery	39
Atlantis	33
Endeavour	25

• **Columbia** Lost Feb. 1, 2003, during re-entry

• **Challenger** Exploded shortly after launch Jan. 28, 1986

Source: NASA Graphic: Melina Yingling © 2012 MCT

Newborn abducted after mother fatally shot found

SPRING, Texas (AP)—A newborn who was abducted from his dying mother after she was repeatedly shot Tuesday outside a suburban Houston pediatric center was found safe hours later, according to investigators who said the suspected shooter sped off with the infant in a blood-stained Lexus.

The 3-day-old boy was found around 8 p.m., about six hours after his mother, Kala Marie Golden, was fatally shot following a verbal altercation in a parking lot, Montgomery County District Attorney Brett Ligon said.

Ligon wouldn't say where the infant was found, but he said it wasn't at a nearby apartment complex where officers wielding guns and riot shields searched earlier Tuesday evening.

"The child is healthy. The father of the child is on his way to be reunited with the child," Ligon told The Associated Press.

A person of interest has been detained though no charges have been filed, he said. He wouldn't provide any details about the person.

Golden was leaving an afternoon checkup with her son, Keegan, when she had a verbal altercation with a woman in a Lexus parked next to her pickup truck, Montgomery County sheriff's Lt. Dan Norris said.

Witnesses said the woman repeatedly shot Golden, took the infant and sped away, hitting the dying mother as she screamed "my baby" and tried to reach into the Lexus, Norris said.

Witnesses also reported hearing as many as seven gunshots and said a man also was in the sky blue or light green Lexus, which was blood-stained on the driver's side, Norris said.

Investigators were processing evidence Tuesday night at one apartment in the complex that was searched, and they took away a vehicle parked in front. Photographs taken by news media at the scene indicate the vehicle was a light-colored Lexus.

The shooting happened just after 2 p.m. outside the Northwoods Pediatric Center in Spring, which is about 20 miles north of Houston.

A handful of people sitting outside Golden's nearby home said they were relatives but declined to give their names. They said the family was grieving and would have no comment.

Joshua Jesson said he was in the clinic with his girlfriend when he heard gunshots. He said he saw a Lexus next to the pickup truck, then later looked back and saw the car was gone and a woman lying in the spot where the Lexus had been parked.

ACROSS THE NATION

Michigan lottery winner charged with welfare fraud

LINCOLN PARK, Mich. (AP)—A Michigan lottery winner was charged with fraud Tuesday for collecting food stamps and public health insurance despite pocketing a $735,000 jackpot. Amanda Clayton, 25, was silent during a brief court hearing after spending a night in jail. A not-guilty plea was entered, and her lawyer vowed to fight the charges. Clayton is the second person in Michigan caught with food stamps despite newly minted wealth. Gov. Rick Snyder last week signed a law requiring the lottery to notify the Human Services Department when someone wins at least $1,000. Clayton is charged with failing to inform the state that her income had changed as a result of the lottery prize and a job. She won a $1 million jackpot on the game show "Make Me Rich!" and chose a $735,000 lump sum, before taxes, last September.

Police handcuff Georgia kindergartner for tantrum

ATLANTA (AP)—A kindergartner who threw a tantrum at her small-town Georgia school was taken away in handcuffs, her arms behind her back, in an episode that is firing up the debate over whether teachers and police around the country are overreacting all too often when dealing with disruptive students. The family of 6-year-old Salecia Johnson lashed out Tuesday over her treatment and said she was badly shaken, while the school system and the police defended how they handled the episode. Across the country, civil rights advocates and criminal justice experts say, frustrated teachers and principals are calling in the police to deal with even relatively minor disruptions.

Utah boy pleads guilty to school bomb plot

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A 16-year-old Utah boy charged in a plot to blow up his high school was sentenced on Tuesday to six months at a secure youth center after pleading guilty to a charge of possession of a weapon of mass destruction. Police say the Roy High School student and an older classmate were inspired by the Columbine shootings and had a detailed plot, school blueprints and a plan to fly away after the bombing. Investigators never found a bomb, but conspiracy is an element of the possession charge. A classmate tipped authorities to the plot after receiving text messages from the juvenile, who bragged that he planned to steal a plane from a nearby airport where officials said that was all but impossible. Still, the boy had logged hundreds of hours on a flight simulator program to prepare.

Asia

China asks Manila to withdraw ship from shoal

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—China asked the Philippines on Tuesday to withdraw a coast guard ship and an archaeological research vessel from a disputed shoal and ignored a Philippine proposal to bring the problem to a U.N.-linked tribunal for arbitration.

China and the Philippines have agreed to settle the dispute diplomatically but have both insisted on their ownership of Scarborough Shoal, prolonging an eight-day standoff on the high seas. Two Chinese surveillance ships have been facing off with a Philippine coast guard vessel in the area since last week.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario asked China to bring the dispute to the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea for arbitration. The Chinese Embassy, however, ignored the proposal Tuesday and asked the Philippines to withdraw its vessels from the shoal "and restore peace and stability there."

The horseshoe-shaped shoal is among the barren islands, reefs and coral outcrops in the South China Sea which have been disputed by China, the Philippines and four other nations for their potential oil and gas deposits, rich fishing grounds and proximity to busy commercial sea lanes.

Although claimant countries have pledged to settle the territorial rifts peacefully, the disputes have erupted in violence in the past, including in 1988 when China and Vietnam clashed in the Spratly Islands in a confrontation that killed 64 Vietnamese soldiers. Many fear the disputes could become Asia's next flash point for armed conflict.

Vietnam held a maritime ceremony on Monday near the area where the incident occurred to remember the dead soldiers, state-controlled media reported.

AP

Philippine Navy Chief Vice-Admiral Alexander Pama shows photos of two Chinese surveillance ships, allegedly similar to the two ships which approached and positioned themselves between a Philippine warship and Chinese fishing vessels, during a news conference with Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert Del Rosario, left, Wednesday April 11, 2012, at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila, Philippines.

On Tuesday, the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi announced a five-day naval exchange later this month with Vietnam. No live-fire drills will occur, but the two sides will cooperate in areas such as salvage and disaster training as they have done in recent years.

Several rounds of talks have failed to end the impasse at Scarborough, which began April 10 when two Chinese ships prevented a Philippine warship from arresting several Chinese fishermen who were accused of illegal entry and poaching. The fishermen slipped away from the shoal over the weekend, angering Filipino officials.

The Philippines lodged another protest with China on Monday, accusing one of the Chinese ships and an aircraft of harassing a Philippine-registered yacht to force it to leave the Scarborough area. Several French and Filipinos were on the yacht, which has been conducting archaeological research in the shoal, Philippine Foreign Affairs spokesman Raul Hernandez said.

The Philippines says the uninhabited shoal, which it calls Panatag, lies 230 kilometers (143 miles) from its Zambales province and is well within the country's 230-mile exclusive economic zone that is recognized under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, or UNCLOS. China's nearest territory to the shoal, Hainan province, is 872 kilometers (542 miles) away, Filipino officials say.

Chinese Embassy spokesman Zhang Hua acknowledged the UNCLOS allows countries to claim such exclusive economic zones but said they could not exercise sovereignty on areas within those waters that are owned by other countries. An ancient Chinese shipwreck can be found off Scarborough, which China calls Huangyan, but the Philippine research ship has no right to salvage it, Zhang said.

"We urge the archaeological vessel leave the area immediately," Zhang said in a statement.

NKorea's rocket display shows lack of progress

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Analysts sifting through information on North Korea's failed rocket launch say Pyongyang appears to have learned little about spaceflight since its last flubbed attempt three years ago, and that the country is a long way from being able to threaten the United States with a long-range missile.

The experts also said an apparently new missile North Korea showed off at a military parade Sunday did not seem to present any major leaps forward. Some were more interested in the truck it was carried on.

North Korea had touted the Unha-3 rocket that broke apart Friday as its most ambitious effort yet to join the exclusive club of space-faring nations. It said the rocket carried an Earth observation satellite, though many nations say the launch was a cover for testing long-range missile technology.

Failure is a fact of life in rocket programs. The U.S., Soviet Union and China all had their share of setbacks, and Pyongyang's rival, economically and technologically advanced South Korea, has yet to succeed in launching its own rockets, though it has tried twice.

Analysts said Friday's failure, which appeared to come in the rocket's first stage, suggests that North Korea is not learning much from its mistakes. Its Unha rocket shots in 1998, 2006 and 2009 are all believed to have ended in failure.

"An obvious conclusion is they have a major reliability problem," said Nick Hansen of the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University. "This is the second Unha first stage that malfunctioned early in flight, after the July 4, 2006, launch—and this is Unha-3. The Unha technology for at least the first stage appears frozen to the early 2000s."

Hansen said the biggest difference between the rocket launched in 2009 and the one that failed last week was "the paint that said 3 on the rocket body."

The launch, intended to be an inspiration for its people and a warning to its enemies, was a huge embarrassment for North Korea's new leadership.

Pyongyang made the unusual admission that the rocket failed—it still claims launches in 1998 and 2009 put satellites in orbit though independent space experts disagree. North Korea says its scientists are looking into the cause, but has yet to provide further details or reveal photos or video of the launch.

Analysts are largely working off flight details announced by the U.S. military and by photos of the rocket and the launch facility taken by journalists beforehand. Efforts by South Korea's navy to recover debris from the launch have not panned out.

The three-stage rocket was seen from the start by the United States, the U.N. and others as a cover for testing advanced ballistic missile technologies, since the two are similar and North Korea is suspected to be working on missiles of increasingly greater range and efficiency.

Bin Laden's family to leave Pakistan overnight

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Osama bin Laden's three widows and their nine children were scheduled to be deported to Saudi Arabia overnight, almost a year after U.S. Navy SEALs killed the al-Qaida chief at a compound in northwest Pakistan, their lawyer said Tuesday.

The family was detained by Pakistani authorities immediately after the pre-dawn raid on May 2 in Abbottabad. The American commandos left them behind but took bin Laden's body, which they later buried at sea.

The relatives were interrogated by Pakistani officials and eventually charged last month with illegally entering and living in the country. They were convicted on April 2 and sentenced to 45 days in prison, with credit for about a month served. Their prison term, which was spent at a well-guarded house in Islamabad, ends Tuesday.

Pakistani officials have said very little publicly about the family, raising questions about why they were kept in detention for so long.

Some speculated Pakistan was worried information from the widows would point to some level of official assistance in hiding bin Laden. The compound in Abbottabad where he lived for six years was about a kilometer (half a mile) from one of Pakistan's main military academies.

The Pakistani government has denied knowing the terrorist leader's whereabouts, and the U.S. has said it has no evidence senior Pakistani officials knew he was in Abbottabad. But details leaked to the media from the interrogation of one of bin Laden's widows raised further questions about how he was able to live in the country unnoticed for so long.

Amal Ahmed Abdel-Fatah al-Sada said the al-Qaida chief lived in five houses while on the run in Pakistan for nine years and fathered four children, two of whom were born in Pakistani government hospitals.

It's also possible that one of the reasons Pakistan kept bin Laden's family in detention for so long was the difficulty of figuring out where to send them. Two of the widows are from Saudi Arabia, and the third, al-Sada, is from Yemen.

Saudi Arabia stripped bin Laden of his citizenship in 1994 because of his verbal attacks against the Saudi royal family, and there have been questions about whether the country would accept the women. Saudi officials have declined to comment.

The lawyer for bin Laden's family, Mohammed Amir Khalil, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that they were scheduled to fly to Saudi Arabia overnight. He originally said they were expected to leave around midnight.

A Pakistani official indicated there was a delay related to paperwork. It was unclear how long the delay would last, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Tokyo governor says city will buy disputed islands

TOKYO (AP)—Tokyo's outspoken governor says the city has decided to buy a group of disputed islands in the East China Sea to bolster Japanese claims to the territory, a move that could elevate tensions with China. Gov. Shintaro Ishihara said the city is close to reaching an agreement with the private Japanese owner of three of the four islands in the group known as Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese. The islands, surrounded by rich fishing grounds, are also claimed by China and Taiwan. They have been a frequent flash point in diplomatic relations between Japan and China. A collision between a Chinese fishing boat and Japanese coast guard vessels in 2010 near the islands set off a serious diplomatic spat, with Beijing temporarily freezing trade and ministerial talks.

Ex-guerrilla fighter to win East Timor presidency

DILI, East Timor (AP)—A former guerrilla fighter who became East Timor's army chief is on course to be the new president of Asia's newest and poorest nation, preliminary election results showed Tuesday. Jose Maria Vasconcelos, known by his nom de guerre, Taur Matan Ruak, received 61 percent of the vote in Monday's run-off, according to the preliminary figures. His rival, Francisco "Lu Olo" Guterres, got 38 percent. The results released by the National Election Commission still need to be vetted by the court of appeals before they are official. But with such a large gap, it's unlikely there will be any significant change.

Danger from 3 Gorges dam may force 100,000 to move

SHANGHAI (AP)—Another 100,000 people may have to move away from China's Three Gorges Dam due to the risk of disastrous landslides and bank collapses around the reservoir of the world's biggest hydroelectric facility, state media said Wednesday. The number of landslides and other disasters has increased 70 percent since the water level in the $23 billion showcase project rose to its maximum level in 2010, Liu Yuan, an official with the Ministry of Land Resources was quoted as telling China National Radio.

World

Norway killer expounds on fanatical views at trial

OSLO, Norway (AP)—In a scene unimaginable in many countries, Norway's worst mass killer got the chance to explain his fanatical views to the court and the world, unrepentant and dressed in a business suit. Prosecutors and lawyers for the families of his 77 victims even shook his hand. Two days into Anders Behring Breivik's terror trial, the way Norway's legal system deals with a confessed killer who rejects its authority is baffling—even to some Norwegians.

The 33-year-old far-right militant gave a rambling hour-long address to the court on Tuesday, reading from a statement that essentially summarized the 1,500-page anti-Islamic manifesto he posted online before his bomb-and-shooting rampage nine months ago. "The attacks on July 22 were a preventive strike. I acted in self-defense on behalf of my people, my city, my country," Breivik declared, demanding to be found innocent of terror and murder charges. "I would have done it again."

Breivik has five days to explain why he detonated a bomb outside government headquarters in Oslo, killing eight people, then drove to a nearby resort island, where he massacred 69 others, mostly teens, at a summer youth camp run by the governing Labor Party.

Breivik, who has admitted carrying out the grisly acts, boasted they were the most "spectacular" by a nationalist militant since World War II.

His victims were part of a conspiracy to "deconstruct" Norway's cultural identity, he said. Comparing the Labor Party youth wing to the Hitler Youth, he called their annual summer gathering an "indoctrination" camp.

Breivik also lashed out at Norwegian and European governments for embracing immigration and multiculturalism, and claimed to be speaking as a commander of an anti-Islam militant group he called the Knights Templar—a group that prosecutors say does not exist.

At one point, Breivik even likened his attacks to the U.S. dropping atomic bombs on Japan to bring World War II to an end. "They did it for something good, to prevent further war," Breivik said.

The court's main judge interrupted repeatedly, admonishing Breivik to get to the point, but let him continue after he threatened to quit addressing the court altogether if he wasn't allowed to deliver his entire speech.

"It is critically important that I can explain the reason and the motive" for the massacre, he said.

Mette Yvonne Larsen, a lawyer representing victim's families, also interrupted Breivik, saying she had received complaints from victims that the defendant was turning the trial into a platform for his extremist views. But even she showed some sympathy for Breivik's right to explain his actions.

"We understand that the court allows it, but we felt it was our duty as lawyers for the bereaved to intervene," Larsen told reporters.

Norwegian legal experts said it was important that the country's legal traditions apply to everyone, even Breivik, whose massacre shocked this prosperous, peaceful nation.

The justice system isn't about "revenge, but sober, dignified treatment" for everyone accused of a crime, said Thomas Mathiesen, a professor of sociology of law at the University of Oslo.

"It is deeply ingrained in Norwegian tradition and fundamental values. If it lasts all the way through the 10 weeks of this trial, and I think it will, we have an important message to the world," he said.

When Breivik entered the courtroom on Tuesday, he delivered the same clenched-fist salute with his right arm outstretched as a day earlier, turning to stare at the families of some of his victims.

On Monday, Norwegian prosecutors and even lawyers representing the families of victims shook Breivik's hand as the trial opened, raising some eyebrows. Prosecutors shaking hands with defendants would be a rare sight in the U.S., as well as in neighboring Sweden and other Nordic nations.

"That was a bit strange," said John Christian Elden, who represents some survivors but is not participating in the trial. Breivik had asked to wear a uniform in court in pretrial hearings but was rebuffed, and he appeared at the trial in a business suit and tie, his thinning hair neatly combed.

"We don't have orange jumpsuits and that kind of thing in Norway," his lawyer Geir Lippestad said. "This is a completely normal way to dress in a Norwegian court, even in a serious criminal matter."

Breivik's lawyers concede that his contention that he acted in self-defense is unlikely to succeed and said the main point was to avoid an insanity ruling, which Breivik contends would negate his cause.

In his testimony Tuesday, Breivik rejected suggestions that he has a narcissistic personality disorder.

"July 22, wasn't about me. July 22 was a suicide attack. I wasn't expecting to survive that day," he said. "A narcissist would never have given his life for anyone or anything."

Some victims' relatives were upset at his testimony.

"I think it's important to underline that we don't view Breivik as a politician in this matter. He is a mass murderer," said Trond Henry Blattmann, whose 17-year-old son was killed on the Utoya resort island.

Some observers outside Norway found Breivik's monologue surprising in a criminal trial.

"What I see happening in Norway with Breivik's statement is a trial about politics, not legal evidence," said Jeff Kass, who wrote a book about the 1999 Columbine High School shooting in Littleton, Colo.

He noted that in the United States, it's almost always the defense attorney—not the defendant—who does the talking.

"It is almost always considered a bad idea to have the defendant himself or herself testify. For one, it opens them up to too much questioning—as the prosecutor is now doing with Breivik," Kass said.

The five-judge panel hearing the case includes three "citizen" judges, ordinary people who serve four-year terms. One citizen judge was removed Tuesday after media reports said he had posted comments in an online forum saying that Breivik deserved the death penalty, which doesn't exist in Norway. He was replaced by another citizen judge.

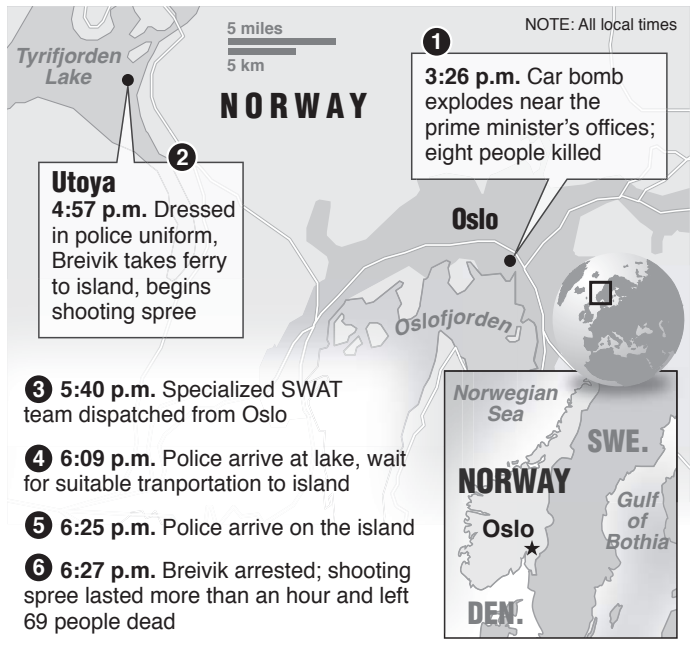
If found mentally sane—the key issue to be decided in the trial—Breivik could face a maximum 21-year prison sentence or an alternate custody arrangement that would keep him locked up as long as he is considered a menace to society.

If declared insane he would be committed to psychiatric care for as long as he's considered ill.

Norway's terror attack

In twin terror attacks that left 77 people dead, Anders Behring Breivik (shown right) set off a car bomb in the capital and went on a shooting spree at a youth camp northwest of Oslo.

How the events unfolded, Friday July 22, 2011


NOTE: All local times
5 miles
5 km
Tyrifjorden Lake
NORWAY
1 3:26 p.m. Car bomb explodes near the prime minister's offices; eight people killed
2 Utoya
4:57 p.m. Dressed in police uniform, Breivik takes ferry to island, begins shooting spree
Oslo
Oslofjorden
3 5:40 p.m. Specialized SWAT team dispatched from Oslo
4 6:09 p.m. Police arrive at lake, wait for suitable tranportation to island
5 6:25 p.m. Police arrive on the island
6 6:27 p.m. Breivik arrested; shooting spree lasted more than an hour and left 69 people dead
Norwegian Sea
SWE.
NORWAY
Oslo
Gulf of Bothia
DEN.

Source: ESRI, BBC, Reuters, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Melina Yingling

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World powers cling to Syria truce despite violence

BEIRUT (AP)—Artillery shatters homes in opposition areas. Regime tanks roll though city centers. Civilians dig graves for dozens of corpses, scrawling their names on headstones with black markers.

Six days on, this is the cease-fire in Syria.

But U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon and others stand by the U.N.-negotiated truce, saying the violence is sporadic and that President Bashar Assad's regime has lessened its assaults. Even with dozens reported dead over the past two days, the world powers struggling to stop Syria's bloodshed are reluctant to declare the cease-fire dead.

"That process needs to play itself out before we judge it a success or a failure," White House spokesman Jay Carney said.

Ban, speaking in Luxembourg, said there has been "sporadic" violence taking place, but "we think that the overall cessation of violence has been generally observed."

In somewhat more critical comments of the Syrian regime, British Foreign Secretary William Hague said Assad's forces have complied with the cease-fire "in the most grudging way possible" and "not yet met all of its terms."

Susan Rice, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said "the situation is not improving. The violence is continuing, the bombardments, particularly in Homs, seem to be increasing, and the conditions that one would want and need to see for the effective deployment of the balance of the monitors are not at present in place."

Nevertheless, Rice called the U.N. plan "perhaps the best and potentially the last best effort to resolve the situation through peaceful diplomatic means."

"It may be impossible to do so," Rice acknowledged. "It may be that the government's logic is that it will continue the use of violence despite its repeated commitments as long as it can get away with it."

But a lack of alternatives exist for calming Syria's 13-month-old crisis. The U.N. said recently that more than 9,000 people have been killed in the conflict since March 2011, and the death toll has risen daily since then.

The U.N. has ruled out the type of military action that helped oust Libya's Moammar Gadhafi, and the U.S. and its allies balk at intervening in another Arab nation in turmoil. Several rounds of international sanctions have done little to slow the bloodshed, even though France said Tuesday that the measures have eroded Syria's foreign currency reserves by half.

The opposition is weak and divided, wracked by infighting and power struggles. The rebels are low on money and guns, and a plan by Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries to funnel millions of dollars a month to rebels known as the Free Syrian Army has gone nowhere. Qatar's prime minister said Tuesday that his country is not arming the rebels.

Joshua Landis, director of the Center for Middle East Studies at the University of Oklahoma, said cease-fires in Middle East conflicts are rarely perfect.

"Usually these things are violated by the stronger side because they see an advantage and they can take more land, and right now the opposition is weak," he said.

Also, Assad can violate the cease-fire terms because he knows the international community won't intervene further.

"The international community is frightened," Landis said. "Assad has laid down the gauntlet. He said, 'I'm not going to leave, I'm going to burn the country down,' and the world isn't sure it wants to go down that road."

Kofi Annan, a joint emissary for the U.N. and the Arab League, brokered the cease-fire that began Thursday.

The truce is part of a plan to launch talks between Assad's regime and the opposition. The plan has the backing of Assad's allies, including Russia, and even with setbacks it is seen as the only way forward.

Under the plan, Assad was supposed to withdraw his troops from populated areas and both sides were to lay down their guns—neither of which has happened. The cease-fire is to allow for a dialogue to end the crisis.

Some opposition leaders have not agreed to the plan, insisting that Assad has killed too many people to be part of the conflict's solution.

WORLD BRIEFS

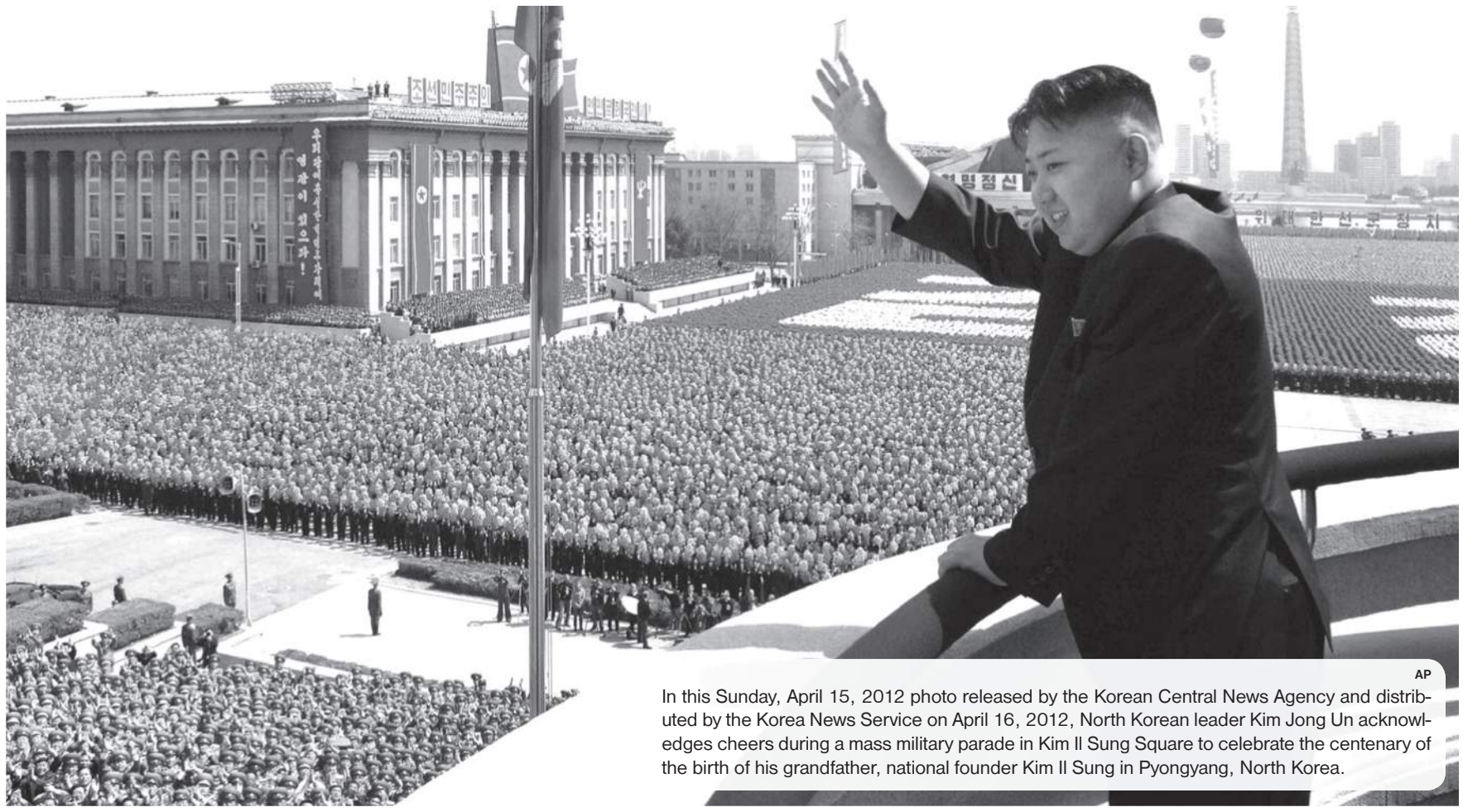
Egypt panel definitively bars 3 president hopefuls

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's election commission rejected the appeals of three main contenders for president Tuesday, definitively removing the most polarizing candidates from the race to become the country's first elected leader since the ouster of Hosni Mubarak. The disqualification of the three diminishes the chances that an Islamist candidate will win the presidency, but there are worries over the fallout from the decision, particularly from the supporters of one of the barred candidates, ultra-conservative Islamist Hazem Abu Ismail. Around 2,000 Abu Ismail supporters had camped outside the commission's headquarters since the previous day, demanding he be allowed to run. When the rejection was announced Tuesday evening, some of them threw stones at security and briefly scuffled with military police.

Palestinian premier pulls out of Israel meeting

JERUSALEM (AP)—The Palestinian prime minister pulled out of a planned meeting with Israel's leader on Tuesday, torpedoing what was set to be the highest-level talks between the sides in nearly two years. The meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, attended by two lower level Palestinian officials, lasted less than an hour and ended with a brief joint statement pledging to seek peace. It signaled little progress was made. Even before Salam Fayyad's pullout, both sides played down expectations for the meeting, which the Palestinians portrayed as a last-ditch effort to salvage peace talks before the U.S. presidential election season.

Focus



AP

In this Sunday, April 15, 2012 photo released by the Korean Central News Agency and distributed by the Korea News Service on April 16, 2012, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un acknowledges cheers during a mass military parade in Kim Il Sung Square to celebrate the centenary of the birth of his grandfather, national founder Kim Il Sung in Pyongyang, North Korea.

North Korea's 'Young General' grows up

By TIM SULLIVAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—His grandfather made his name in the 1930s as a teenage guerrilla, battling the Japanese soldiers who then occupied Korea. His father spent decades solidifying the family's hold over the country, building up the military, extending the intelligence apparatus and driving its nuclear ambitions.

And Kim Jong Un himself? He apparently cut his teeth on the basketball courts of a Swiss middle school, a fiercely competitive player who posed as the son of a North Korean Embassy employee. Until, one day in 2000, he disappeared.

He wasn't seen again publicly until 10 years later, when he stood near his ailing father, Kim Jong Il, at a Pyongyang military parade. Cheering crowds greeted the baby-faced "Young General" as North Korea's ruler-in-waiting.

Now, with an outwardly seamless transition to the third generation of Kim family rulers, he appears to have been well-served by his competitive instincts.

In North Korea, everyone now knows who is in charge. Even if he probably isn't yet 30.

Deafening cheers greeted Kim Jong Un when he stepped onto a viewing platform Sunday and waved to tens of thousands of soldiers and civilians gathered in Kim Il Sung Square, the huge plaza named for his grandfather and the heart of the North Korean capital.

"We have been transformed from a small and weak country ruthlessly trampled upon by competing powers into a confident political and military power," Kim Jong Un said, the first time his voice had been heard here in public. "Our people are showing off their dignity as independent people who no one can dare provoke."

After Kim Jong Il's death, many observers had predicted the son would be little more than a puppet guided by his father's elderly inner circle.

But if it remains unclear exactly how much power Kim Jong Un wields, and how much he must share with the small coterie of relatives and advisers installed by his father, nearly all analysts say he has immense power.

In a week of events planned for the April 15 centenary of his grandfather's birth, a day celebrated as one of the greatest in the country's history, Kim assumed a series of top positions in the military, the ruling Workers' Party and the government.

"It's nonsensical to say somebody is pulling the strings behind Kim Jong Un," said Cheong Seong-chang, a North Korea analyst at the private Sejong Institute near Seoul, South Korea.

While the government-controlled media carefully nurture comparisons to his grandfather, portraying him as a smiling everyman who meets everybody from the political elite to low-ranking soldiers, he also shares his father's knack for confounding the U.S. and its allies.

Kim Jong Il was a master at using missile tests and nuclear research—and then promises to scale them back—to manipulate the West into providing humanitarian aid to the North.

The younger Kim, who is believed to be about 29 years old, is apparently doing the same thing, though analysts add that his long-term policies have not yet become clear. He faced a serious setback on Friday, when a rocket that North Korea said was carrying a satellite blew up shortly after liftoff, scattering pieces over the Yellow Sea.

Washington says the launch was a cover for testing ballistic missile technology, though North Korea says it simply wanted to put an observation satellite into space.

On Tuesday, North Korea's Foreign Ministry rejected U.N. Security Council condemnation of the launch and accused the U.S. of leading a campaign to deny the country's right to develop a civilian space program.

Kim's speech two days after the launch may have overstated North Korea's position in the world—it remains a deeply impoverished nation, despite its nuclear and rocket research programs—but it was also widely seen as a forceful statement about his control over North Korea. During his years in power, Kim Jong Il only spoke once publicly. And then very briefly.

Most of the basic facts about Kim Jong Un's life, though, remain clouded.

North Koreans are told he graduated from Kim Il Sung Military University and speaks several foreign languages, including English. But his age, marital status and even the name of his late mother—said to be one of Kim Jong Il's wives, Ko Yong Hui—have never been made public.

The little personal information to emerge about Kim comes mostly from former schoolmates in Switzerland, who in interviews with European news outlets remember him as a ferociously competitive basketball fanatic obsessed with Michael Jordan. For the most part, he kept his personal history a secret.

"One day, he did actually say to me, 'My father is the leader of North Korea,' but I just thought he was making it up," Joao Micaelo, a former friend, told Britain's Sunday Telegraph.

Most analysts believe Kim Jong Un was at least partially educated in Switzerland, though officials at the German-language school, located in a quiet Bern suburb, say they do not know for sure if the young man who went by the name Pak Un was actually Kim Jong Un. They only say Pak Un was a student from 1998 to 2000, when he was in grades six to nine.

In this heavily militarized, one-party state, questions about Kim family history are almost never raised in public. Questions about Kim Jong Un, particularly with outsiders, are invariably met with little more than fusillades of praise.

At a recent mass gathering in a Pyongyang stadium, thousands of North Koreans chanted his name over and over again, along with a promise to "defend you with our lives!"

Surrounding Kim Jong Un is a group of aging North Korean dignitaries, including a handful of relatives and a tiny cluster of top military and political officials.

The closest adviser, many outsiders believe, is Kim Jong Il's brother-in-law, Jang Song Thaek. He is married to Kim Jong Il's younger sister, Kim Kyong Hui.

Jang, 66, was given a series of high-ranking titles a few years ago so he would have "the leadership credentials to be the mentor" of Kim Jong Un, said Ralph Cossa, president of Pacific Forum CSIS, a Hawaii-based think tank.

Cossa said China, which has become North Korea's all-important patron since the fall of the Soviet Union, has indicated it is pleased by the close ties between the two men.

"The Chinese see the next generation—the combination of (Kim Jong Un) and Jang Song Thaek—as the best hope of North Korea moving in the way of Chinese-style reform," said Cossa, who said he has spoken to a number of Chinese officials who have met with the Pyongyang inner circle. "The Chinese have certainly cast their lot with them."

North Korea's political history, though, makes it clear that true authority rests with Kim Jong Un.

"The history and political culture of this place is that one person makes the decisions," said Victor Cha, a top White House adviser on North Korea under President George W. Bush. Decisions of national significance, he said in a telephone interview, have always been made by the Kims.

"We have to assume that he has folks around him who are advising him, and maybe even giving him different opinions. But there's only one person in control, and it has to be this young fellow."

North Korea's secretive first family

Kim Il Sung
1912-1994
First premier of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Kim Jong Sook
1917-1949
First wife

Kim Song Ae
Second wife
Believed to have given birth to three or four children

Kim Man Il

Kim Jong Il
1941-2011
Became leader in 1994; chairman of the National Defense Commission, supreme commander of the army; general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea

Sung Hae Rim
1937-2002

Kim Jong Il had long-term relationships with at least four women; had children with these two

Ko Yong Hi
1953-2004
Died of breast cancer

Kim Jong Nam
1971-
Studied in Switzerland
Assumed to be the heir until 2001, when he tried to visit Tokyo Disneyland on a fake Dominican passport

Kim Sul Song
1974-
Only daughter

Kim Jong Chol
1981-
Studied in Switzerland
Works in Workers' Party Central Committee leadership

Kim Jong Un
1983-
Studied in Switzerland
Selected to succeed father, Kim Jong Il

Source: McClatchy Washington Bureau, BBC, Global Security, MCT Photo Service

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Environment

Weeding out invasive species with classical biological control

Mikania micrantha, mile-a-minute vine climbs up another invasive plant, *Leucaena leucocephala*, on the west coast of Guam. OLYMPIA TERRAL

Dr. Gadi V. P. Reddy, chemical ecologist and entomologist at the University of Guam, has just received a $33,000 grant from USDA-APHIS to control the insidious weed Mikania micrantha.

The mile-a-minute vine is an invasive weed in Guam and other islands in the Pacific. Mikania's native range is the tropical and subtropical areas of North, Central, and South America. This prolific weed is on the top 10 list of important weeds of Pacific island countries and territories due to its aggressive climbing abilities, which allow it to strangle young establishing plants. This can negatively impact agriculture and agro-forestry plants greatly affecting plant biodiversity in the areas it colonizes. Estimates have the infestation of mikania in Guam around 2,581 acres.

Reddy, with Dr. Christy Leppanen and their team at the Western Pacific Tropical Research Center's Chemical Ecology and Entomology Laboratory, have been investigating a proven biological agent to control the spread of the mile-a-minute vine in Guam and on Saipan. Although Puccinia spegazzinii sounds like an appetizing menu item, it is a rust fungus that has been used in various places around the world, including the Pacific islands of Papua New Guinea and Fiji, to contain the spread of mikania. Working in collaboration with Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Reddy's team has received a permit to release the strain of P. spegazzinii that was released in Fiji and Papua New Guinea for the same purpose.

"The rust is highly damaging to the leaves, petioles and stems of M. micrantha, causing cankers and often resulting in death of the plant. Tests have shown that Puccinia spegazzinii is completely host specific and will not cause damage to any other plants or humans," said Reddy.

One of the greatest advantages of using classical biological control is that it eliminates the need to use toxic chemicals such as herbicides that may contaminate ground water, rivers or the ocean through runoff. Aside from the environmental damage herbicides may cause, they have proven ineffective in containing the spread of mikania.

Live spores of P. spegazzinii will be cultivated in Guam for release into the field. Reddy fully expects the fungus to thrive in the hot humid conditions on the island and reduce the severity of the mile-a-minute infestation. The rust fungus will also be released in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Protecting the region's natural environment from the devastating effects of invasive species is an important part of the work carried out by Reddy and his team. ***(UOG)***

Corals status review, draft plan now out for comments

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service has released a scientific status review and a draft management report for initial review and comment by the public and other important stakeholders. The review and draft report are part of an ongoing court-ordered process to assess 82 species of coral from the Caribbean and Pacific for listing under the Endangered Species Act. These materials do not represent any final or proposed decision, and the important feedback received through the public review and comment will help inform any proposed findings.

"We have created this additional step to the listing process, in agreement with the petitioners and the court, due to the complexity and significance of this potential listing decision," said Samuel Rauch, acting assistant administrator for NOAA's Fisheries Service. "Review by the public, scientific experts, state and territorial governments, NGOs, as well as relevant industry will provide additional sources of information and will help inform any future decisions."

NOAA's Fisheries Service is releasing these documents in compliance with a court agreement so that the public can review the information it has relied upon to date and it can gather additional information that might be considered. This process is ongoing and these materials should not be viewed as an indication of any future decisions. In fact, the process beginning today will play a central role in any next steps, and if any ESA listing determination is considered, it would be released as a proposal, which will also be available for public comment.

The two draft reports made available for public comment and review include the status review, which assesses current impacts to corals and if there are likely extinction risks in the future. The status review was independently peer reviewed by the Center for Independent Experts. The other draft report released is the draft management report, which evaluates and assesses the effectiveness of existing regulations that address the threats to these coral species, as well as conservation efforts by both governmental and non-governmental organizations to reduce threats and improve the health of corals.

These reports can be downloaded from the NOAA Fisheries website at http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/stories/2012/04/4_13_12corals_petition.html and comments can be submitted either by email or mail until July 31. NOAA's Fisheries Service will also provide the public opportunities for input at listening sessions and scientific workshops during this comment period. Specific meeting dates and locations will be posted on the NOAA website in the future.

As a result of a petition by the Center for Biological Diversity and subsequent court orders, the agency is evaluating the status of 82 species of coral from the Caribbean and Pacific to determine whether they should be listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA. ***(NOAA)***

42nd Earth Day: April 22, 2012

April 22, 2012, marks the 42nd anniversary of Earth Day—a day intended to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's natural environment. The day came from reaction to a massive oil spill in waters near Santa Barbara, Calif., in 1969. In honor of Earth Day—and Earth Week (April 16-22)—this edition of Profile America Facts for Features includes examples of Census Bureau statistics pertaining to energy and the environment.

Collecting Waste

$1.6 billion: Estimated revenue for "hazardous waste treatment – radioactive waste" in 2010 for U.S. employer firms was up 36.0 percent from 2009.

$715 million: Estimated revenue for "residential nonhazardous recyclable collection services" in 2010 for U.S. employer firms was up 26.5 percent from 2009.

$2.5 billion: Estimated revenue for "building remediation services—asbestos contamination" in 2010 for U.S. employer firms was up 22.8 percent from 2009.

Heating and Cooling the Home

2.2 million: Estimated number of occupied housing units across the country heated by wood in 2010, which is less than 2 percent of all homes.

38,010: Estimated number of occupied housing units across the country heated by solar energy in 2010.

57.0 million: Estimated number of occupied housing units across the country heated by utility gas in 2010, which is about half of all homes.

88 percent: Estimated percent of newly built single-family homes across the country with air-conditioning in 2010. In 1974, it was 48 percent.

Commuting to Work

25.3 minutes: Estimated average time for workers 16 years and older across the country spent getting to work in 2010, up from 25.1 minutes in 2009.

31.8 minutes: Estimated average time for workers 16 years and older in Maryland spent getting to work in 2010, the longest commute time in the nation.

16.1 minutes: Estimated average time workers 16 years and older in North Dakota spent getting to work in 2010, the shortest commute time in the nation.

Working in the Nuclear and Forestry Fields

41,502: Number of workers employed in nuclear electric power generation across the U.S. in 2009. They had an average salary of $110,355.

53,003: Number of workers employed in forestry and logging across the U.S. in 2009. They had an average salary of $35,127.

Building a House

2,392 square feet: The average size of a single-family house built in 2010, down from 2,438 square feet in 2009.

$272,900: The average sales price of a new single-family home in 2010, up from $270,900 in 2009 but down from $313,600 in 2007.

9,000: The number of multifamily buildings built across the U.S. in 2010. Of these, 62 percent had at least five units.

Watching Nature's Fury

36.8 million: The 2010 Census population (as of April 1, 2010) of the coastal portion of states stretching from North Carolina to Texas—the area most threatened by Atlantic hurricanes. Approximately 12 percent of the nation's population live in these areas.

15: The number of hurricanes to hit Florida's Monroe County from 1960 to 2008, the most in the country. The 2010 population of 73,090 was down 8.2 percent from 2000. Lafourche Parish in Louisiana and Carteret County in North Carolina have each seen 14 hurricanes from 1960 to 2008. Lafourche's population has risen 7.1 percent over the past decade while Carteret's population has risen 11.9 percent.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Life & Style

Avengers, Spidey, Batman lead huge summer lineup

LOS ANGELES (AP)—As superhero summers go, this one is truly super.

Amid one of the most-promising box-office seasons Hollywood has ever served up, three movies stand above the rest.

The first weekend in May brings "The Avengers," the ensemble adventure teaming Robert Downey Jr.'s Iron Man with such fellow Marvel Comics heroes as Thor, Captain America and the Incredible Hulk.

"The Amazing Spider-Man" follows over the Fourth of July as Marvel's web-slinger gets a fresh origin story, with Andrew Garfield taking over as teen-turned-superhero Peter Parker.

Finally, in late July, there's "The Dark Knight Rises," with Christian Bale returning as DC Comics' masked vigilante in the finale of director Christopher Nolan's Batman trilogy.

These three are the gold standard for fans: "The Dark Knight," Tobey Maguire's three "Spider-Man" flicks and Downey's two "Iron Man" movies are the six top-grossing superhero adventures ever.

Add in solid receipts for solo turns of "Avengers" co-stars Chris Hemsworth in "Thor" and Chris Evans in "Captain America: The First Avenger"—plus the lure of a new incarnation of the Incredible Hulk by Mark Ruffalo in "Avengers"—and summer's superhero meter is off the charts.

"`The Avengers' is literally one of the first books I followed regularly. ... Some of the work that was done in there was really groundbreaking and really epic," said "The Avengers" writer-director Joss Whedon ("Buffy the Vampire Slayer"). "It's great fun to take characters that you are so invested in, because you grew up with them, and get to put words in their mouths and figure out what they're going to be doing with their lives for a while.

Of course, there's plenty to fill in the gaps between superhero sagas.

Other action tales include "Men in Black 3," with Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones; Kristen Stewart and Charlize Theron's fairy-tale makeover "Snow White and the Huntsman"; Ridley Scott's return to sci-fi with "Prometheus"; "Avengers" co-star Jeremy Renner's "The Bourne Legacy"; Colin Farrell's remake "Total Recall"; and the board game adaptation "Battleship."

Cartoon makers offer up the Scottish adventure "Brave," the latest from the animation virtuosos at Pixar, while talking-animal franchises return with "Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted" and "Ice Age: Continental Drift."

The comedy and music front brings Adam Sandler's fatherhood story "That's My Boy"; the all-star song fest "Rock of Ages"; Ben Stiller, Vince Vaughn and Jonah Hill's suburban romp "Neighborhood Watch"; Sacha Baron Cohen's tyrant tale "The Dictator"; and Whitney Houston's final film, "Sparkle."

AP

In this film image released by Warner Bros., Christian Bale portrays Bruce Wayne and Batman in a scene from "The Dark Knight Rises."

And what would summer be without vampires? Johnny Depp turns blood-sucker as he reunites with director Tim Burton for "Dark Shadows," a big-screen take on the gothic soap opera. "Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter" has the great emancipator taking down the undead.

Like director Whedon with "The Avengers," ``Amazing Spider-Man" star Garfield practically has Peter Parker in his DNA. Garfield has been a huge Spider-Man fan since age 4.

"I know the character really well. It's part of me already. It's like I've been preparing for the role for 24 years," said Garfield, who hints that destiny is at work in this version as orphan boy Peter's search for his parents puts him on a path with the mutant spider that endows him with superpowers.

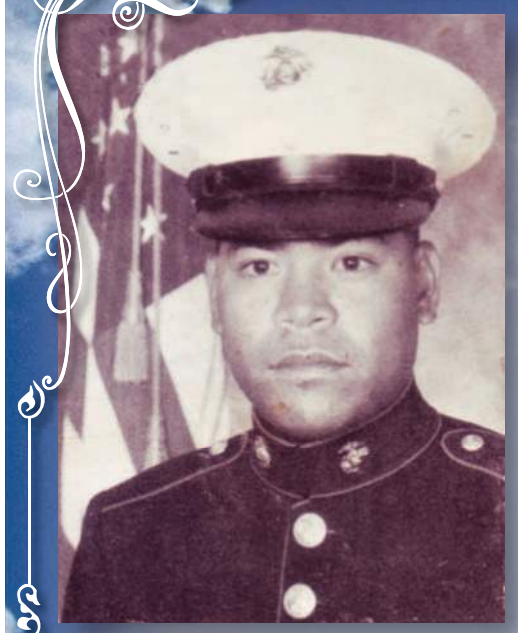
Directed by Marc Webb and co-starring Emma Stone as romantic interest Gwen Stacy and Rhys Ifans as the villainous Lizard, "Amazing Spider-Man" aims to walk the line between gravity and exuberance, Garfield said.

"Marc Webb has approached this with a real eye for authenticity, emotional authenticity, a kind of groundedness and grittiness. It feels a bit darker to me," Garfield said. "Also, it's really important that Spidey has fun and is witty. The mask's a very powerful thing for anyone who wears it. It gives you leave to do anything you want, and I think in the hands of a teenager, he'll just run riot. I hope we've managed to have some of that."

"The Avengers" has superhero puppetmaster Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) rounding up Downey's Iron Man, Scarlett Johansson's Black Widow, Evans' Captain America, Hemsworth's Thor, Ruffalo's Hulk and Renner's Hawkeye to take on Thor's evil brother (Tom Hiddleston), who plots to unleash alien marauders on Earth.

"`The Avengers' challenge was just not so much the scope of it," Downey said. "It's funny to think about a superhero movie as being complex, but I think it was a little bit daunting imagining how you get the balance of all of these intersecting stories. ...

"It was a bit of a welcome relief in a certain sense in that `Avengers,' once it took shape, was a very, very smartly executed and controlled venture."



IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE

We the family of the late

ILEISCH

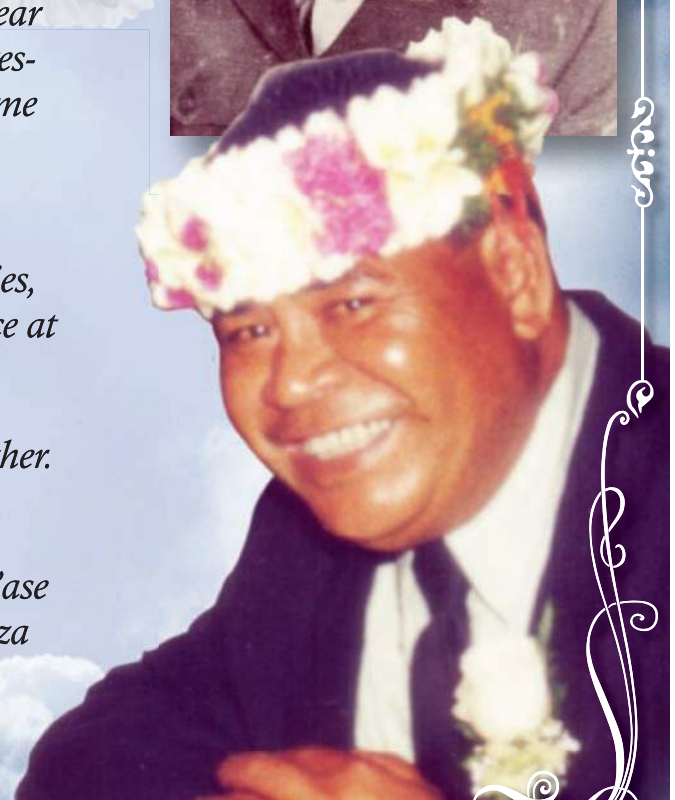
Jose Isaias "Ping" Lairopi Itibus,

wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to families near and far, friends, and acquaintances for their kind expression of love, sympathy, and compassion during our time of grieving in the passing of our beloved Jose Isaias "Ping" Lairopi Itibus into the hands of our Lord.

We truly appreciate your presence at the nightly rosaries, the Mass of Christian Burial, and the Interment Service at the CNMI Veterans' Cemetery in Marpi.

Thank you to all those that assisted in one way or another. Your presence and generosity will not be forgotten.

Thank you, Ghilisoow yan Dangkulo na Si Yuus Ma'ase ginen i asagua-ña as Juanita, famaguon-ña as Lorenza yan Ricky, famaguon-famaguon-ña, Nana-ña as Concepcion, manelu-ña yan i familia.



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Three Stooges

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Will Sasso, Sean Hayes, Chris Diamantopoulos
Comedy • Rated PG

Synopsis

Peter and Bobby Farrelly finally get around to doing their take on the Three Stooges with this 20th Century Fox production. From a script they penned with Mike Cerrone (Me, Myself & Irene), the brothers' comedic take on the trio will not be a biopic, but rather a sampling of new slapstick adventures set in the present day. Will Sasso and Sean Hayes are set to play Curly and Larry respectively.

The Cabin In The Woods

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Richard Jenkins, Bradley Whitford
Thriller • Rated R

Synopsis

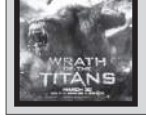
A group of friends head to a cabin in the far reaches of the wilderness for some vacation fun, but they end up getting something completely different in this MGM horror flick. Cloverfield scribe Drew Goddard takes a seat in the director's chair for the first time for this film that he and Joss Whedon wrote together. Kristen Connolly, Chris Hemsworth, Anna Hutchison, Fran Kranz, and Jesse Williams head up the ensemble cast, which also includes Richard Jenkins and Bradley Whitford.

★ ★ ★

American Reunion

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Jason Biggs, Alyson Hannigan
Comedy • Rated R



Wrath Of The Titans

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Sam Worthington, Liam Neeson
Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Mirror Mirror

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Julia Roberts, Lily Collins
Fantasy • Rated PG

The Hunger Games

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson
Science fiction • Rated PG 13

21 Jump Street

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Jonah Hill, Channing Tatum
Comedy, Action • Rated R

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Pippa Middleton's racy party photos cause a stir

LONDON (AP)—The Parisian costume party featured a man in a dog collar, a dwarf, a nearly naked nun—and a rather well known guest named Pippa Middleton, younger sister of the Duchess of Cambridge.

Middleton, 28, was in the headlines Tuesday, with photographs of her appearance at a friend's decadent birthday party splashed across the Daily Mail tabloid.

The pictures are striking: women in revealing, low-cut period costumes from the 18th-century playacting with men in fancy clothes and spiky leather collars and bracelets. Buckingham Palace declined to comment, but the racy coverage was likely not well received by Britain's royal family, which has been enjoying a popularity boost since the former Kate Middleton's fairytale wedding to Prince William last year.

"A lot of the world considers that she (Pippa) is royal, and by association what she does has an influence on the royal family," said Ingrid Seward, editor of Majesty magazine.

"It's unfortunate for Pippa, it's quite difficult for her," Seward said of the tabloid reports. "She has all the downside and not the upside. I know she had has a very hard time."

Pippa Middleton holds no royal title, but her life has been subject to intense scrutiny since she captured attention at her sister's wedding with a close-fitting maid of honor dress.

AP

In this file photo dated Saturday, Feb. 26, 2011 Britain's Pippa Middleton, arrives at the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland's eldest daughter Lady Katie Percy to city financier Patrick Valentine at St Michael's Church in Alnwick, England.

The picture editor at the Daily Mail, Paul Silva, recently said that up to 400 paparazzi shots of her cross his desk every day.

Britain's media often characterize her as the party-loving, more vivacious contrast to the elegant and subdued Duchess.

The Daily Mail story—with the headline "Her Royal Hotness and the viscount in a dog collar"—showed Middleton, dressed in an 18th-century style top, posing with other similarly dressed women and a man in a king's costume laughing as one of the women pulled on the dog collar around his neck.

The article said the man was the host, Arthur de Soultrait, a French fashion designer.

The paper ran other photos from the party that featured a woman in scanty lingerie and a nun's headdress dancing with a dwarf.

The story came after photographs in The Sun newspaper Monday that showed Pippa Middleton in a convertible, next to a companion who pointed what appeared to be a gun at the photographer.

A spokesman for a French clothing company owned by de Soultrait, who also appeared to be in the car, denied that Middleton's companion brandished a pistol at the paparazzi, saying that the driver was in fact "playing a game" with the photographers with a toy gun.

Paris police say they've received no complaint and are not investigating the incident.

Regardless, it seemed that the harm has been done.

"It's very damaging for her, it's a totally irresponsible, stupid thing to do," said Max Clifford, one of Britain's best-known public relations gurus.

Clifford said that although Pippa wasn't a member of the royal family, she needed to be much more careful about her behavior.

"(Princes) William and Harry have been such a PR success for the palace. The last thing the royals need is someone like this," he added.

'Halo 4' scheduled for November launch

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Master Chief will awaken in November.

Microsoft Corp. announced Tuesday that "Halo 4," the seventh game in the popular sci-fi franchise starring armored hero Master Chief, is scheduled for worldwide release Nov. 6 on Xbox 360. Set four years after the events of "Halo 3," the shoot-'em-up sequel will focus on Master Chief Petty Officer John-117 and sidekick Cortana battling an ancient enemy.

"Halo 4" marks the return of the superpowered protagonist, who has been absent from the series since drifting into space in cryogenic slumber at the end of 2007's "Halo 3." (2009's "Halo 3: ODST" and 2010's "Halo: Reach" focused on other characters in the "Halo" universe.) It will also be the first "Halo" shooter installment not created by Bungie Studios.

After the developer broke off from Microsoft in 2007, Microsoft established 343 Industries to push the "Halo" universe into the future. For Master Chief's latest intergalactic adventure, 343 Industries is giving him a minor makeover, tweaking both the supersoldier's iconic suit of armor, as well as his usually silent, oh-so-stoic attitude.

"One of the things we wanted to do was put Chief up against new challenges and have him face obstacles unlike anything he's faced before—some of those are external and some of those are internal," said "Halo 4" creative director Josh Holmes. "Throughout the course of the story, we wanted him to undergo some kind of meaningful change as a character."

Holmes said one of the most noticeable changes in Master Chief's armor is the bodysuit that he wears underneath the outer shell. It's slicker and more prominent than in previous "Halo" editions. The bodysuit regulates Master Chief's physical functions, and Holmes joked that it's the reason "he doesn't need to go to the bathroom in the middle of battle."

"There's definitely some really clear changes in the shape and placement of the armor," added executive producer Kiki Wolfkill. "For us, Chief is such an athletic and agile warrior. It was necessary that his core armor design reflect that. As he is fighting his way through the environments in this game, he needs a freedom of movement that feels believable."

Wolfkill noted the physical changes aren't merely cosmetic. She said "Halo 4" art director Kenneth Scott redesigned the suit to prepare Master Chief for a new trilogy. Unveiled at last year's Electronic Entertainment Expo, "Halo 4" is the first of three new "Halo" games planned by Microsoft.

Rapper G. Dep convicted in 1993 NYC shooting

NEW YORK (AP)—Rapper G. Dep stunned police by suddenly confessing to a nearly 20-year-old shooting, then went to trial arguing that his admission might have been mismatched to a murder.

The rapper, who flirted with fame in the late 1990s and early 2000s, was convicted Tuesday in an unusual cold case that he both reopened and ultimately fought, though he never contested his December 2010 admission. Indeed, he and his lawyers characterized it as a bid to unburden and redeem himself.

The 37-year-old rapper hugged his lawyer after hearing the jury's verdict, which leaves him facing at least 15 years in prison at his sentencing, set for May 8.

Regardless, he remains convinced he did the right thing by coming forward, defense lawyer Anthony Ricco said.

"He has a conscience and a heart, and his conscience and his heart brought him to where he is today," Ricco said after court. ". He's probably making the most powerful statement a rapper of his era can make, which is to be accountable and to do the right thing."

Prosecutors, though, saw G. Dep as a man who'd committed a deliberate and deadly crime, then provided the proof years later.

"Eighteen years ago, the defendant made a calculated decision to steal from, shoot, and kill an innocent person on the street," Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. said in a statement.

The rapper, born Trevell Coleman, made his surprise confession in late 2010, almost a decade after his career's brief heyday. As part of rap impresario Sean "Diddy" Combs' roster of talent at Bad Boy Records in the late 1990s and early 2000s, G. Dep scored a rap-chart hit with "Special Delivery," and the video for his "Let's Get It" helped popularize a loose-limbed dance called the Harlem shake.

Another star exits from 'Dancing'

Police arrest guard, recover Petty guitars

CULVER CITY, Calif. (AP)—It was a heartbreaker for Tom Petty and the band when someone stole five of their precious guitars from a soundstage, but it was music to their ears when police in Southern California announced Tuesday that the instruments had been recovered and a security guard was under arrest.

Police identified the arrested man as Daryl Emmette Washington, 51, of Los Angeles, a private security guard at The Culver Studios lot.

Police Chief Don Pedersen said the break in the case came when the suspect pawned one of the guitars at a Hollywood pawn shop for $250.

"Mr. Petty would have joined us, but he's preparing for a concert in Denver," said Pedersen, who described the stolen guitars as collectively worth $100,000.

A message seeking comment from the band's publicist, Jim Merlis, was not immediately returned.

The instruments were reported stolen last Thursday from The Culver Studios, a sprawling complex of soundstages west of downtown Los Angeles where Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers had been rehearsing for an upcoming tour.

The instruments were Petty's blond 1967 maple 12-string Rickenbacker and his Gibson SGT-VJunior, Mike Campbell's blue Dusenberg, Ron Blair's Fender Broadcaster and Scott Thurston's 1967 Epiphone Sheridan.

On its website, the band offered a "no questions asked" $7,500 reward for information leading to the return of the instruments.

Their return comes as the band prepared to kick off their tour Wednesday in Broomfield, Colo.

The band is known for a string of hit singles, including "American Girl", "Don't Do Me Like That" and "Breakdown."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The sweetness is gone for Gavin DeGraw on "Dancing with the Stars."

The singer-songwriter and his professional partner, Karina Smirnoff, were bounced from the ABC show Tuesday after the judges' scores were combined with viewers' votes.

DeGraw has been juggling "Dancing with the Stars" and a concert tour promoting his new album, "Sweeter."

Returning to compete next week will be actors Jaleel White, Roshon Fegan, William Levy and Melissa Gilbert; singers Gladys Knight and Katherine Jenkins; TV personality Maria Menounos; and football star Donald Driver.

The hosts announced that next week's Motown-themed episode will feature performances by the Temptations, Martha Reeves and Smokey Robinson.

In this April 16, 2012 photo released by ABC, singer Gavin DeGraw, right, and his partner Karina Smirnoff perform on the celebrity dance competition series, "Dancing with the Stars," in Los Angeles. AP

$412 check that bought Superman sold for $160,000

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The $412 check that DC Comics wrote to acquire Superman and other creative works by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster has sold for $160,000 in an online auction.

Stephen Fishler, chief executive of ComicConnect.com and Metropolis Collectibles in New York, said Tuesday that the 1938 check was auctioned online to an unnamed buyer.

"Two people were battling it out over the check," he said of the furious last minute bidding that lifted the price from its start of $1 last month to the final bid Monday night. The check was made out to Siegel and Shuster and deposited. It includes a line item for $130 showing DC paid for full ownership and rights to Superman.

Siegel and Shuster created Superman together while teenagers in Cleveland, Ohio, in the early 1930s. His first appearance was in "Action Comics" No. 1 in April 1938. And even though the check changed hands, a legal dispute over creator's rights to Superman has raged since then and is far from settled.

AP

In this image released by ComicConnect.com, an image showing the canceled check sent to Superman creators Jerry Siegel and Joe Schuster in 1938.

The canceled check was saved by a DC Comics staffer in the 1970s and sat undisturbed in a desk drawer for 38 years.

"It's one of the most important pieces of pop culture history," said Vincent Zurzolo, who co-owns ComicConnect with Fishler.

Pop singer Jason Mraz has unclaimed money in W.Va.

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)—West Virginia's treasurer wants Jason Mraz to come pick up his money. Treasurer John Perdue said Tuesday the pop singer's name is on a list of people due unclaimed property in the state.

Perdue didn't specify how much money but says it may have to do with Mraz's September 2010 concert at the Clay Center in Charleston.

The treasurer's office says it's made unsuccessful attempts to contact Mraz's management.

A representative for Mraz didn't immediately return a message left by The Associated Press. Mraz is from Mechanicsville, Va.

Perdue serves as the custodian for more than 716,000 unclaimed property accounts totaling more than $152 million.

Mraz hit it big in 2008 with the song, "I'm Yours," which was on the Billboard Hot 100 chart for 76 weeks and peaked at No. 6.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

The Band's Helm in 'final stages' of cancer battle

WOODSTOCK, N.Y. (AP)—Levon Helm, a former member of The Band, is in the final stages of his long battle with cancer. A message posted Tuesday on the 71-year-old musician's website by his family says "Levon is in the final stages of his battle with cancer." Helm was diagnosed with throat cancer in 1998 and the illness reduced his voice to a whisper. But he still continued to sing on albums and at rollicking concerts at his Woodstock home. Helm was a key member of The Band and lent his distinctive Southern voice to classics like "The Weight" and "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down." Original members of The Band were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1994.

Actors, musicians visit Congress for arts funding

WASHINGTON (AP)—Celebrities including Alec Baldwin visited Capitol Hill Tuesday to shine their spotlight on federal funding for the arts. Baldwin and others including actors Hill Harper, Melina Kanakaredes, Tiffani Thiessen and singers Ben Folds and Clay Walker are part of the artistic delegation for Americans for the Arts. The nonprofit organization works to advance arts and arts education across the country. Baldwin told a news conference that the arts stimulate children's education. With about $147 million in federal funding for the National Endowment for the Arts this year, the group hopes to increase funding to $155 million next year. Folds, who met with Rep. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., to press for funding, credited art programs at public schools for his success today. The musician said the arts provide children with a "well-balanced curriculum."

Nick Jonas records 'How to Succeed' cast album

NEW YORK (AP)—Nick Jonas has leveraged his gig on Broadway in "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" into a mini-album. Producers of the show said Tuesday a five-song EP will be released May 8 featuring the voice of the youngest of the three heartthrob Jonas Brothers singer-songwriting siblings. Jonas is currently playing amoral corporate climber J. Pierrepont Finch, having taken over the part from Darren Criss of Fox's hit show "Glee," who briefly assumed the role from Daniel Radcliffe. Jonas, who is committed to playing the song-and-dance part until at least July 1, has recorded "Brotherhood of Man" and "I Believe In You" among the five songs. Radcliffe recorded his own cast album.

Ex-wife can't take man's trash talk about girlfriend

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My ex-husband likes to call to ask me for advice. Our most recent conversation was in regard to his girlfriend and her sexual past, which he knew about before they started dating. He now disapproves of her history and he began calling her unpleasant names. He tells me he deserves better but intends to stay with her until he gets bored.

Hearing this sort of talk gives me a stomachache and heartburn. I feel terrible for the woman. I want to be a friend to my ex, but I'm not sure I can handle the stress it causes. He has had a hard life, and I didn't make it any easier by divorcing him.

Is the only solution not to take his calls, like my friends tell me? I'm not sure I can do that without major guilt.

WISCONSIN READER

DEAR READER: I'll offer another option: The next time your ex starts asking you for relationship advice, tell him you don't like hearing the way he talks about his girlfriend. Explain that it makes you so uncomfortable that you prefer to avoid the topic of his love life. If he respects your wishes, continue taking his calls. If not, because you find them upsetting, refuse them.

And please, stop feeling guilty about the divorce. From your description of your former husband, he is a user, and you're lucky to be rid of him.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I attend a church with about 350 worshippers. The church provides a supervised nursery for infants to 2 years of age. Most parents with babies use it. However, one couple has a 2-year-old child and a 2-month-old baby. These parents do not take advantage of the nursery, but keep the kids in the sanctuary.

Last Sunday the baby, who was in the father's arms, cried during most of the service. The parents may be able to tune it out, but many of us were very distracted by the wailing.

The father is a schoolteacher. I couldn't help but wonder how this teacher would handle a student who caused such a disruption in his classroom. I don't think he would tolerate an hour of loud crying from anyone. Why don't these people understand their behavior prevents others from worshipping as they would like?

SILENCE, PLEASE

DEAR SILENCE, PLEASE: That's a good question, and one I recommend you pose to the person who was conducting the service. Out of consideration for the congregation, he or she should "remind" the parents that the nursery is available, and stress that in the future it be used to prevent the problem from recurring because the disruption caused "so many complaints."

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was recently a bridesmaid at a friend's wedding. The bride gave all of us bridesmaids gifts after the reception. The bags were fancy and contained expensive gourmet chocolate candy. When I went to open mine, I noticed the box had already been unwrapped and half of it had been eaten. I didn't say anything to the others or the bride because I didn't want to hurt her feelings or seem ungrateful. What should I do?

BRIDESMAID IN TENNESSEE

DEAR BRIDESMAID: While it's unfortunate, I see no reason to bring it up now. Expensive or not, it's only a box of chocolates, and it appears someone may have bitten off more than they should chew.

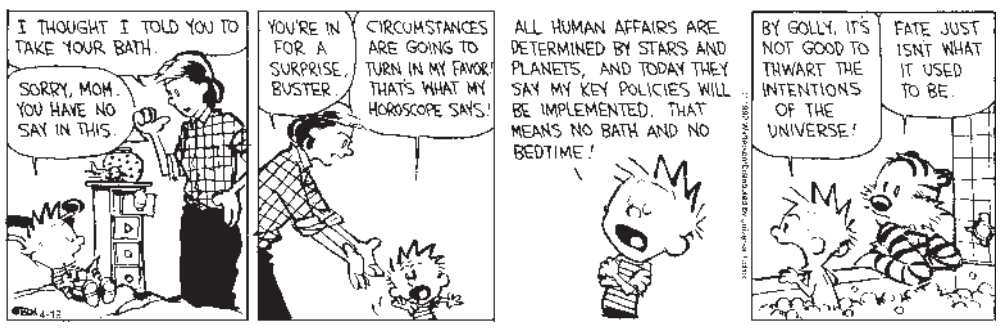
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO TAKE YOUR BATH.
SORRY, MOM. YOU HAVE NO SAY IN THIS.
YOU'RE IN FOR A SURPRISE, BUSTER.
CIRCUMSTANCES ARE GOING TO TURN IN MY FAVOR! THAT'S WHAT MY HOROSCOPE SAYS!
ALL HUMAN AFFAIRS ARE DETERMINED BY STARS AND PLANETS, AND TODAY THEY SAY MY KEY POLICIES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED. THAT MEANS NO BATH AND NO BEDTIME!
BY GOLLY, IT'S NOT GOOD TO THWART THE INTENTIONS OF THE UNIVERSE!
FATE JUST ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

STILL BREATHING, I SEE
I LIKE TO KEEP BUSY
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By Bryan Basset

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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Persian bigwig
5 Corn core
8 Donahue or Collins
12 Little, in La Scala
13 Regret
14 Logical
15 Deserve
16 Table scrap
17 Differently
18 Guiding principles
20 Grown-ups
22 "Help!"
23 Tokyo's old name
24 Crazy
27 Roared
32 Id counterpart
33 Acapulco gold
34 Geological period
35 Delighted (in)
38 Nervous
39 Writer Deighton
40 Fellow
42 Catchphrase
45 Expectorant drug
49 "The Music Man" locale
50 Personal
52 Gospel writer
53 Help a hood
54 Periodical, for short
55 Eye part
56 Fashion
57 Type measures
58 Fender bender

DOWN

1 Detail, for short
2 Frost
3 Farm fraction
4 Sincere
5 Medieval weapon
6 "— Town"
7 Next after alpha
8 Fake
9 Consecrated
10 "Meet Me — Louis"
11 Dregs
19 Accomplish
21 First st.
24 Morning moisture
25 Khan title
26 Ensued
28 Preceding
29 Inn offerings
30 Work unit
31 Rotation duration
36 Official emissary
37 — budget
38 There may be a shadow on it
41 Movie with a balloon-borne house
42 "The King and I" locale
43 Timber wolf
44 Iditarod terminus
46 Remedy
47 Similar
48 "— la vie"
51 Hardly ruddy

Solution time: 25 mins.

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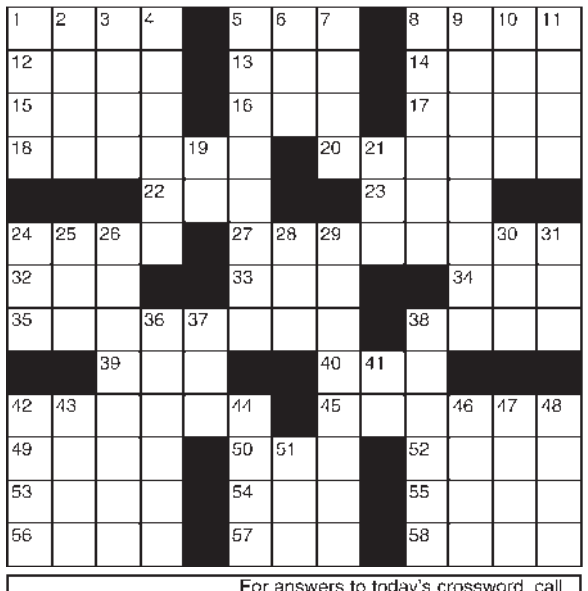
Yesterday's answer 4-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hayden Christensen, 31; Kate Hudson, 33; James Franco, 34; Ashley Judd, 44.

Happy Birthday: Your strength lies in your power of persuasion. Take action and use your intelligence, experience and know-how in a setting or situation that will help you advance. Love is highlighted, and reconnecting with old friends will bring you closer to someone you enjoy spending time with. Your numbers are 7, 13, 19, 23, 35, 39, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Put everything you've got into personal gain. Invest in you and what you can do to improve your situation. Don't let anyone deter you from engaging in a project, activity or plan. Taking action will shut down any opposition you face. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't divulge private information if you want your plans to unfold without a hitch. Take care of any loose end that might leave you in a vulnerable position. Observe what everyone around you is doing to avoid being caught off guard. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll impress people if you participate in a cause, fundraiser or event you believe in. Your ability to find solutions and formulate a simple plan will help you gain seniority. Don't be surprised if someone is jealous of you. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Keep your thoughts to yourself. Accept the inevitable. An emotional matter will develop if you or someone you are close to becomes controlling or pushy. Try not to change your mind too often or you will send the wrong impression. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Plan a vacation or get involved in a project, course or apprenticeship that will allow you to expand your mind and improve your lifestyle. Love is on the rise, and discussing your plans with someone special will enhance your relationship. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't get angry, get moving. It's up to you to take control and make things happen. Focus on gathering information and expanding your knowledge and experience through networking and interacting with others. Be prepared when opportunity knocks. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Plan to have some fun. Get out with friends you enjoy or people who offer good conversation. Love and romance are highlighted, and no matter what you do, you will attract plenty of attention from your current lover or someone new. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take a timeout to sort out any changes you want to make to your home or family life. Be creative and you will come up with a way to enhance your living arrangements to better suit your personal and professional needs. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You've got all the moves and ideas to win favors. Communication is the key to getting what you want. Your outgoing nature will bring greater interest from someone who wants to partner with you to reach similar goals. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Put your money and possessions in a safe place. You stand to lose if you are too trusting. Joint ventures, lending or borrowing are all bad ideas right now. Focus on home and family, and work to secure your position and your future. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You can turn a good idea into a profitable venture. Don't just talk about your plans; spring into action and get things up and running. Love is in the stars, and a romantic plan should be executed. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't take anything or anyone for granted. You are better off doing things on your own. You will be disappointed in someone you thought you could trust. Don't share your personal secrets with anyone. Put your money in a safe place. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are powerful, willful and convincing. You are a courageous leader.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				6				
		1				2		
	3		7	5	8		4	
		4				9		
6		7		4		3		5
		2				8		
	8		2	3	1		9	
		6				7		
				7				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	5	4	9	3	6	1	7	8
1	7	6	5	2	8	4	9	3
9	3	8	7	4	1	2	5	6
7	4	2	6	9	3	8	1	5
3	8	5	2	1	7	9	6	4
6	9	1	4	8	5	7	3	2
8	6	9	3	7	2	5	4	1
4	2	3	1	5	9	6	8	7
5	1	7	8	6	4	3	2	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/19

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

YOM HASHOAH Solution: 7 letters

Y	A	D	I	L	O	H	E	R	O	I	S	M	K	G
N	E	V	E	G	N	I	V	I	L	S	T	O	P	N
O	(L)	L	N	A	S	P	E	E	C	H	E	S	W	I
M	(O)	O	L	P	T	I	S	H	A	B	A	V	A	D
E	(S)	M	E	O	P	O	W	E	R	L	D	D	S	A
R	(S)	E	R	R	W	L	A	N	M	E	E	T	R	E
E	D	C	A	M	E	W	W	S	S	I	B	B	A	R
C	H	Y	L	A	A	O	A	T	H	G	I	L	W	I
S	E	A	R	R	D	B	E	X	P	R	E	S	S	S
R	C	S	E	N	E	T	U	B	I	R	T	I	S	E
I	I	E	U	G	O	G	A	N	Y	S	R	H	N	L
T	V	S	I	R	N	O	I	T	N	E	T	T	A	D
U	R	N	A	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y	E	N
A	E	H	Y	A	D	L	A	I	R	O	M	E	M	A
L	S	E	M	I	T	S	U	A	C	O	L	O	H	C

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Attention, Aware, Begin, Calm, Candles, Ceremony, Community, Deep, Eve, Express, Heroism, Holiday, Holocaust, Israel, Light, Living, Loss, Means, Meet, Memorial Day, Poems, Power, Prayer, Psalms, Rabbis, Reading, Ritual, Service, Siren, Song, Speeches, Stop, Sundown, Synagogue, Times, Tisha b'Av, Torah, Torch, Tribute, Warsaw, Yellow Wax

Yesterday's Answer: Postponed

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD Volume 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 or 35 (eds. 08-09 each) ($5 each) plus $3 to Universal Uclick ($3 postage for the 1st book, each $1 per for each additional book). Send to WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-642-5400. Order online at www.wonderword.com (Contains 48 puzzles. Print dimensions are 8½ x 11 inches.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution:
Man in the street

WANTED TO BUY

Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

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Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

FRANCISCA NEBRIDA GAOLONG Petitioner,	)	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0587
vs.	)	SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
FENG GAOLONG Respondent.	)	

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT: FENG GAOLONG

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 501731, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief I the complaint.

Dated this 7th day of March, 2012.

/s/Clerk of Court

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS

Employment Opportunity

The Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners (CBNE) seeks a

Fulltime Office Manager

Essential competencies

1. Billing
2. Budgeting
3. Communications
4. Organizational skills
5. Human resources
6. Computers: Data base management/Front page/publisher software

Qualifications

Bachelors Degree preferred, but not required, with 3 or more years of managerial experience. Salary range 30,000 to 35,000 yr.
Nursing experience preferred, but not required.

Fulltime Office Clerk

Essential competencies

1. filing
2. answering phones
3. accepting incoming mail
4. Organizational skills
5. Good communication skills
6. Computers: data entry

Qualifications

High school Graduate, some college preferred but not required, with 3 or more years of experience. Salary range 13,000 to 15,000 yr
Nursing experience preferred, but not required.

Closing Date: April 25, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.
A detailed copy describing the individual position is available by request through our email below.

Interested applicants please submit your resume and a cover letter to:
CBNE Board
Email: cbne.resumes@gmail.com

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Find today's solution in classified section

Anthony has triple-double, Knicks beat Celtics

NEW YORK (AP)—Carmelo Anthony had 35 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists for his second career triple-double, and the New York Knicks made 19 3-pointers to keep alive their Atlantic Division title hopes with a 118-110 victory over the Boston Celtics on Tuesday night.

JR Smith and Steve Novak both scored 25 points for the Knicks, who overcame a season-high 43 points from Paul Pierce and moved into sole possession of seventh place in the Eastern Conference while trimming Boston's division lead to 3 1/2 games. The Celtics would have wrapped up their fifth straight Atlantic title with a victory.

Instead, the Knicks staggered them with a record-tying 14 3-pointers in a 72-point first half and equaled their season high by finishing 19 of 32 behind the arc. They improved to 14-5 under interim coach Mike Woodson.

Tyson Chandler had 20 points on 9-of-10 shooting for the Knicks, who finished one short of their franchise record for 3s, set last season.

Kevin Garnett scored 20 points for the Celtics, who fell out of a three-way tie for fourth in the East with Atlanta and Orlando. Rajon Rondo had 13 points and 13 assists.

Playing without the injured Ray Allen, the Celtics got a brief scare in the third quarter when Rondo landed hard on his back going for a rebound and remained on the court for a few minutes while being attended to before remaining in the game.

Woodson has repeatedly said the division title was his goal, even though the Knicks' 18-24 record when he took over always made that unlikely. Boston coach Doc Rivers said he's never talked to the Celtics about winning a division title or congratulated them for doing so, but there's no doubt it's worth having this season. Division winners are guaranteed to be seeded no worse than No. 4, avoiding Chicago or Miami until at least the second round.

Allen missed his fifth straight game when he felt pain in his right ankle Tuesday morning. He had gone through the morning shootaround and Rivers assumed he was set to play before the pain returned. Neither was sure if Allen would play Wednesday against Orlando.

Allen, the NBA's career leader in 3-pointers made, would have fit in perfectly in this game.

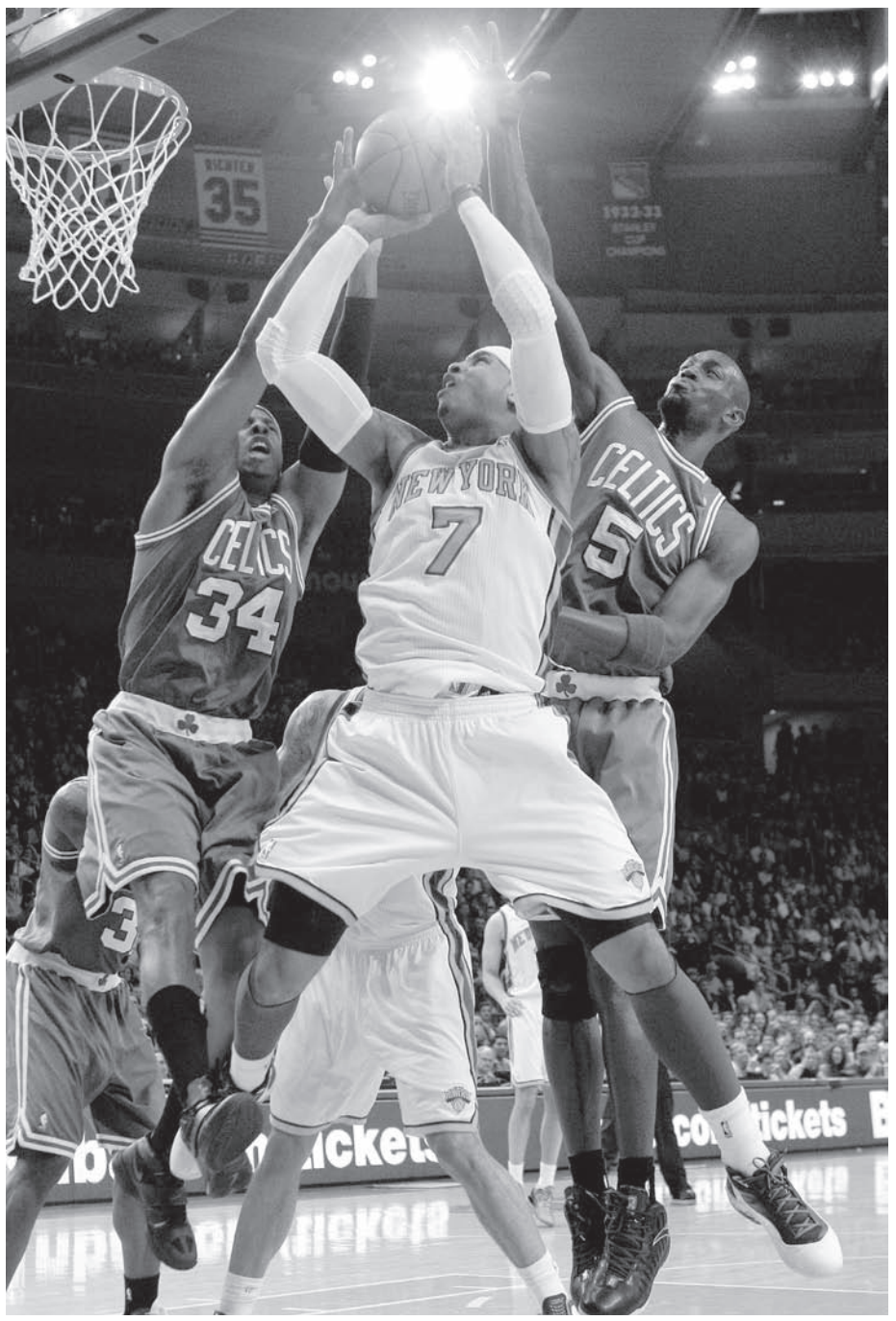
The Celtics jumped to an 8-2 lead, but the rest of the first half belonged to the Knicks. New York scored the final 10 points of the first quarter, going up 32-26 behind 12 points from Anthony and 63 percent shooting.

The Knicks then scored eight straight points to open the second quarter, capping an 18-0 run when Smith's 3-pointer made it 40-26 with 9:16 left. Consecutive 3s by Mike Bibby and Smith later made it 54-35 midway through the second, and the lead reached 20 points when Novak was fouled while making a 25-footer, falling backward out of bounds and into the arms of Woodson—the only time anyone got near a Knicks shooter in the half.

Novak hit two more before halftime, the Knicks taking a 72-53 lead into the locker rooms as The Gap Band's "You Dropped a Bomb on Me" played over Madison Square Garden's speakers. But Pierce had 17 points in the third quarter to get the Celtics back into it, and the Knicks led 96-84 after three.

When Rondo landed hard in the third quarter, a long jumper by Anthony was reviewed by officials as the Celtics attended to him on the court and changed to yet another 3-pointer.

The Celtics finally got within single digits late in the game, with Pierce scoring four straight to cut it to 112-106 with 3:07 left. But Novak hit two 3-pointers around a jumper by Rondo, putting it away at 118-108.



AP

Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce (34) and teammate Kevin Garnett (5) defend New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony (7) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, April 17, 2012, in New York.

Spurs 112, Lakers 91

In Los Angeles, Tony Parker had 29 points and 13 assists, and Tim Duncan had 19 points and eight rebounds as San Antonio handed the Lakers their worst loss of the season.

Manu Ginobili scored 15 points as the Spurs improved their spot atop the Western Conference with their fourth straight win. They also snapped Los Angeles' four-game winning streak while dominating a meeting of division leaders—albeit with Kobe Bryant sitting out his sixth straight game to rest his bruised shin.

Andrew Bynum had 21 points and seven rebounds for the Lakers, while Matt Barnes and Pau Gasol scored 16 points apiece.

Pacers 102, 76ers 97

In Philadelphia, Danny Granger scored 24 points, and Roy Hibbert had 15 points and 13 rebounds to lead Indiana to its sixth straight win.

The Pacers won their fifth straight road game and 10th of 11 overall and seem to be hitting their stride as the postseason nears. The Pacers play their final four games at home and, barring a complete collapse, should earn the No. 3 seed in the Eastern Conference.

Andre Iguodala scored 23 points for the Sixers in their third straight loss as they continue their late-season fade.

Pistons 116, Cavaliers 77

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Brandon Knight had 28 points and seven assists as Detroit routed Cleveland in one of the NBA's most lopsided games of the season.

Tayshaun Prince added 15 points for the Pistons and Jonas Jerebko scored 14. Detroit led 61-38 at halftime and scored the first 16 points of the third quarter. It was 100-50 after three.

The Cavaliers were without rookie point guard Kyrie Irving, who was out with a right shoulder problem and hasn't played since April 3. Irving could return Wednesday night against Philadelphia. Cleveland forward Alonzo Gee was a late scratch because of a left ankle sprain.

According to STATS LLC, the biggest blowout of the season was Portland's 44-point victory over Charlotte on Feb. 1.

Manny Harris led the Cavaliers with 18 points.

Grizzlies 91, Timberwolves 84

In Minneapolis, Rudy Gay had 28 points and nine rebounds to help Memphis withstand a weak start to the fourth quarter and beat Minnesota for the eighth straight time.

J.J. Barea scored a season-high 28 points on 5-for-9 shooting from 3-point range to go with eight assists and five rebounds, but the Timberwolves lost their 11th straight — and their 27th consecutive game in April. They have three more tries this season to stop that streak.

Zach Randolph added 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Grizzlies, who moved within two games of the Los Angeles Clippers for fourth place in the Western Conference and crept closer toward clinching a playoff spot.

Manning goes to work with his new team

NEW YORK (AP)—The nation won't have to wait long to see Peyton Manning in a Broncos uniform.

Manning's first game as Broncos quarterback will come in prime time as Denver hosts Pittsburgh on the opening Sunday of the NFL season. The four-time MVP was released by Indianapolis after missing the 2011 season following neck surgery. After conducting a four-city lottery for his services, Manning landed in Denver, which hasn't won a Super Bowl since his new boss, John Elway, was behind center.

"We're excited about that. Anytime you have a guy behind the center named Peyton Manning, you're going to get a lot of attention," Elway said.

Manning won't have an easy assignment against the Steelers, who ranked first in overall defense and against the pass last year.

"The opening game in Denver obviously will be an interesting way to start the season," Steelers President Art Rooney said. "There will be a lot of attention paid to Peyton Manning's first game with the Denver Broncos, so it'll be exciting to start out that way."

Pittsburgh's season ended in Denver in January when Tim Tebow threw an 80-yard TD pass to Demaryius Thomas on the first play of overtime in their wild-card playoff game. Manning presents a whole different challenge.

"Hopefully we can back up the playoff game that we had last year," Elway said.

Steelers at Broncos is one of four prime-time games in the league's kickoff week, Sept. 5-10. The schedule, released Tuesday, has the Super Bowl champion Giants hosting the Cowboys in the first Wednesday NFL game since 1948; the league moved the game to avoid a conflict with President Barack Obama's Thursday night speech at the Democratic National Convention.

"We will have a week-in and week-out challenge, not only in who we play, but with the different elements of our schedule," Giants coach Tom Coughlin said. "We play on four different days and we have five night games. Our first three games are Wednesday-Sunday-Thursday. We play two road night games early, come home for a week and then go to San Francisco. Our people are going to have to be really good about it."

The now-traditional Monday night opening doubleheader has Cincinnati at Baltimore, followed by San Diego at Oakland.

A juicy opening-day matchup features San Francisco at Green Bay; the teams combined to go 28-4 in 2011. New Orleans, still awaiting league punishment to its players for the bounty program that targeted opponents for dangerous hits, hosts Washington.

The Saints have a bye after their fifth game, which means interim coach Joe Vitt will actually miss seven weeks during his six-game suspension for his role in the bounty system.

A 14-week package of Thursday night games begins in Week 2 with Chicago at Green Bay. All but one of those games will be on NFL Network, which now has games from September until December instead of just the second half of the schedule.

The other Thursday night game is on Thanksgiving on NBC: New England at the New York Jets, Tebow's new team. Earlier that holiday, Houston is at Detroit, then Washington at Dallas.

Two Sunday games will be played outside the United States. St. Louis hosts New England on Oct. 28 in London, while Buffalo hosts Seattle on Dec. 16 in Toronto.

Byes occur from Weeks 4 through 11. Beginning in Week 11, the league will have flex scheduling for the Sunday night game. Tentatively scheduled for the first prime-time game that could be flexed are the Ravens at Steelers.

Houston has one of the stranger schedules, with a month at home (Green Bay, Baltimore, bye, and Buffalo), and three straight road games (at Detroit on Thanksgiving, at Tennessee, at New England). Plus, the Texans play the Colts twice in the last three weeks.

"Those division games just carry so much weight," coach Gary Kubiak said. "We've always had some big games against those guys. Hopefully, we've got ourselves in position right there, that those games are really, really big games for both of us and we can take care of our business."

In all, 10 teams have three consecutive home games, while Green Bay and Houston are the only clubs with three straight road trips.

"As far as playing three on the road, I don't look at that as an extraordinary challenge," coach Mike McCarthy said of Green Bay's first such string since 1998. "It is always challenging, period, when you go on the road."

The wild-card weekend is Jan 5-6, followed the next weekend by the divisional round, then by the conference championships on Jan. 20, The Super Bowl is Feb. 3 in New Orleans, televised by CBS.

Moyer becomes oldest pitcher to win game in majors

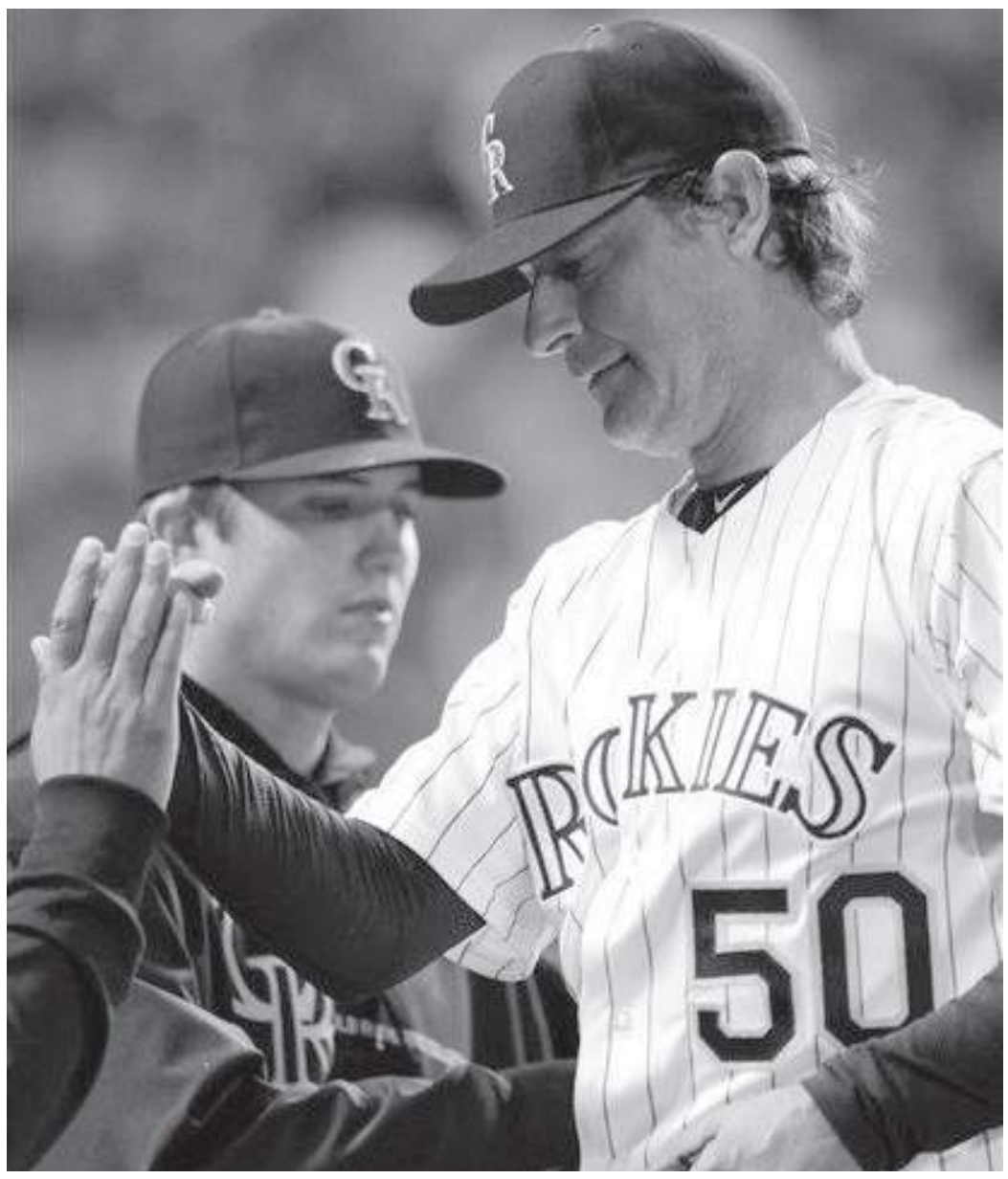
DENVER (AP) — Jamie Moyer turned in a vintage performance in becoming the oldest pitcher to ever win a major league game.

The 49-year-old Moyer threw seven masterful innings and Dexter Fowler hit a two-run homer, helping the Colorado Rockies hold on for a 5-3 win over the San Diego Padres on Tuesday.

Moyer (1-2) was sharp all evening as he picked up his 268th career win, tying him with Hall of Famer Jim Palmer for 34th on the career list.

Relying on a consistent cutter and mixing in a 78-mph fastball, the cunning lefty gave up just six hits and two runs — both unearned — as he kept the Padres hitters at bay and off balance.

That's been a winning recipe for Moyer over a career that's stretched nearly a quarter century and included 689 games.



AP

Colorado Rockies starting pitcher Jamie Moyer is congratulated by teammates in the sixth inning of a baseball game against the San Diego Padres on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 in Denver.

Marlins 5, Cubs 2

In Miami, Ozzie Guillen made a victorious return to the dugout when pitchers Josh Johnson and Heath Bell snapped out of early-season slumps to help Miami beat Chicago.

Guillen returned from a five-game suspension imposed after his comments praising Fidel Castro caused a backlash in South Florida, especially among Cuban Americans.

Johnson allowed two runs in seven innings and Bell earned the save after four rocky outings. Streaking Hanley Ramirez broke a 2-all tie with a three-run homer in the eighth, his third.

Nationals 1, Astros 0

In Washington, Gio Gonzalez earned his first win with Washington, pitching seven dominant innings in a win over Houston.

The Nationals improved to 9-3, their best start since moving from Montreal to Washington in 2005.

Gonzalez (1-0) allowed two hits, walked two and struck out eight in his third start for Washington. The left-hander acquired from Oakland in the offseason also earned a standing ovation at the plate when he flied out to the warning track.

Brad Lidge pitched a shaky ninth for his second save. He gave up a double to his first hitter and walked the next batter before retiring three in a row.

Braves 9, Mets 3

In Atlanta, Johan Santana made the shortest start of his career as Atlanta finally beat the New York Mets by taking advantage of shaky defense.

Tyler Pastornicky's two-run double highlighted a five-run second that finished off Santana. Randall Delgado (2-0) won it for the Braves, who lost their first four games against the Mets this season.

Two costly errors—Jason Bay dropped a fly ball, Ike Davis made a wild throw—led to a pair of unearned runs against Santana (0-2), who allowed just one run in his first two games.

He was lifted after 1 1-3 innings, finished off by Jason Heyward's run-scoring single that made it 6-0. Santana had never gone less than three innings in his previous 265 starts.

Brewers 5, Dodgers 4

In Milwaukee, pinch-hitter George Kottaras' two-run double with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning lifted Milwaukee to a victory over Los Angeles.

Trailing 4-3, Corey Hart led off the ninth with a single off Dodgers closer Javy Guerra (1-1). Pinch-runner Carlos Gomez then stole second and Mat Gamel walked.

Guerra, who blew his first save of the year and third in his career, struck out Jonathan Lucroy. Kottaras then pinch-hit for Cesar Izturis and hit a 2-2 pitch to the wall, driving in Gomez and Gamel with Gamel sliding in just ahead of the throw from second baseman Mark Ellis and sending the Brewers to a jubilant celebration at home plate.

Cardinals 2, Reds 1, 10 innings

In St. Louis, Matt Carpenter hit a bases-loaded sacrifice fly in the 10th inning to give St. Louis a victory over Cincinnati.

David Freese walked to lead off the 10th off Sam LeCure (0-1). Tyler Greene came in as a pinch-runner and advanced on a sacrifice by Yadier Molina. After an intentional walk, reliever Bill Bray entered and walked Daniel Descalso to load the bases.

Carpenter, who returned to the bench after playing the last four games for the injured Lance Berkman, pinch-hit and worked the count full before flying out to right field. Jay Bruce's throw home was unable to nab Greene. It was Carpenter's 11 RBI of the season.

Pirates 5, Diamondbacks 4

In Phoenix, Andrew McCutchen lined a run-scoring single in the ninth inning, Garrett Jones homered and drove in three runs, as Pittsburgh beat Arizona.

Jason Grilli (1-1) allowed a solo homer to John McDonald in the eighth inning, but McCutchen reached down to line an RBI single off Bryan Shaw (0-2) to left with two outs in the ninth. Jones led off the sixth inning with a solo homer off Ian Kennedy, but the Pirates scored the rest of their runs with two outs to win for the second time in eight road games.

Juan Cruz worked a perfect ninth for his first save since 2009.

Giants 4, Phillies 2

In San Francisco, Madison Bumgarner backed up his nice new contract with a second straight win and Melky Cabrera hit an RBI triple as San Francisco beat Philadelphia.

Nate Schierholtz had three hits and drove in a run and Pablo Sandoval doubled leading off the fifth to extend his hitting streak to start the season to 11 games.

Bumgarner (2-1), pitching a day after receiving a new $35.56 million, six-year contract, outpitched Joe Blanton (1-2) and gave San Francisco a shot at a third straight series victory.

Rangers 18, Red Sox 3

In Boston, Mike Napoli hit two of Texas' six home runs as the Rangers romped past the Boston Red Sox for their fifth straight victory.

Josh Hamilton homered and matched his career high with five RBIs. Adrian Beltre, Michael Young and Nelson Cruz also connected for the Rangers.

Texas finished with a season-high 21 hits, tagging Jon Lester for eight of them before the Boston ace was pulled in the third inning. The Rangers provided more than enough run support for Colby Lewis (2-0), who settled down after a shaky start and finished pitched seven solid innings.

It was the most home runs for the Rangers in a game since they hit six against Detroit in August 2008.

Yankees 8, Twins 3

In New York, C.C. Sabathia shook off early trouble to get a rare April win for the Yankees and backup catcher Chris Stewart hit a go-ahead, two-run single and had three RBIs for the first time in his career to lead New York over Minnesota.

Sabathia (1-0) allowed three runs and four hits in 7 1-3 innings with seven strikeouts and one walk. After falling behind 3-1 in the third, he didn't allow a hit and retired 13 in a row during one stretch.

In going 19-8 last year, Sabathia didn't get his first win until his fifth start. He is just 7-4 in March and April since joining the Yankees in 2009 and 18-14 through April in his career.

Blue Jays 7, Rays 3

In Toronto, Jose Bautista, Adam Lind and Brett Lawrie homered as Toronto took advantage of a three-error game by normally sure-handed Evan Longoria to beat Tampa Bay.

It was a career worst performance for Longoria, the American League's Gold Glove third baseman in 2009 and 2010. He became the seventh player in Rays history to make three errors in a game.

Matt Joyce homered for the Rays, who have lost six of eight.

Ricky Romero (2-0) allowed three runs and eight hits in six-plus innings to win.

Orioles 3, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Nolan Reimold homered for the fourth consecutive game and made a terrific diving catch in left field to help Baltimore beat Chicago.

Baltimore had just one hit before Robert Andino singled with one out in the sixth. Reimold then hit a drive to left-center off John Danks, giving the Orioles a 2-0 lead. J.J. Hardy followed with a drive to virtually the same spot for his third homer.

Reimold also had a big home run Monday night, helping Baltimore rally for a 10-4 victory over the White Sox in 10 innings. He is batting .394 (13 for 33) in the past eight games.

Chen Wei-yin earned his first major league win in his second career game, allowing two runs and six hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Tigers 3, Royals 1

In Kansas City, Missouri, Miguel Cabrera snapped out of his slump with a pair of hits, driving in the go-ahead run and helping Detroit to a win over Kansas City.

Cabrera was 0 for 22 before his single in the third inning, but it was his RBI single off reliever Greg Holland in the eighth that proved most important. It came on the heels of singles by Andy Dirks and Brennan Boesch, and snapped a 1-all tie.

Prince Fielder added an RBI single to make things a bit more comfortable for Octavio Dotel (1-0), who had worked around Brayan Pena's double during a scoreless seventh inning.

Athletics 5, Angels 3

In Anaheim, California, Daric Barton ended a career-worst homerless drought of 76 games with a solo shot against Dan Haren and Coco Crisp drove in the go-ahead run with an eighth-inning single, triggering a four-run rally that carried Oakland over Los Angeles.

Brian Fuentes (1-0) pitched a scoreless seventh inning for the victory and Grant Balfour got his third save in as many attempts despite giving up a one-out homer in the ninth by Vernon Wells.

Kevin Jepsen (0-1) took the loss.

Indians 9, Mariners 8

In Seattle, Jason Donald's tiebreaking single off Tom Wilhelmsen in the top of the seventh inning completed Cleveland's comeback from seven runs down and lifted the Indians to a victory against Seattle.

Carlos Santana hit a three-run homer and Cleveland reliever Rafael Perez (1-0) pitched a scoreless sixth inning to pick up the win. Chris Perez got his third save in four tries, despite loading the bases in the bottom of the ninth.

Mariners reliever Charlie Furbush (0-1) allowed a hit by Travis Hafner and a walk to Shelley Duncan before striking out the next two in the seventh and being replaced. However, Wilhelmsen could not close the inning.

Justin Smoak had a career-high four hits for the Mariners.

Kentucky's starting 5 declares for NBA draft

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP)—Kentucky's starting lineup of three freshmen and two sophomores did most everything together en route to the school's eighth national title. Now, they will each go their separate ways in the NBA.

Freshmen Anthony Davis, Michael Kidd-Gilchrist and Marquis Teague, and sophomores Terrence Jones and Doron Lamb declared for the draft in a nationally televised news conference Tuesday night.

"Let me just say that Anthony and Doron and Terrence have decided to put their names in the NBA draft, so they will do that," coach John Calipari said, pausing for a dramatic effect. "And Michael and Marquis Teague have also decided to put their names in the draft.

"I was trying to scare some coaches out there, that's all I was doing."

The group, all clad in similar blue UK golf shirts, came into the season largely untested before ascending to No. 1, winning the Southeastern Conference in dominating fashion and capping an NCAA tournament run with a 67-59 victory over Kansas in the title game.

The five join seniors Darius Miller and Eloy Vargas leaving the program.

Wild Bill's slate still clean; Matansa wins

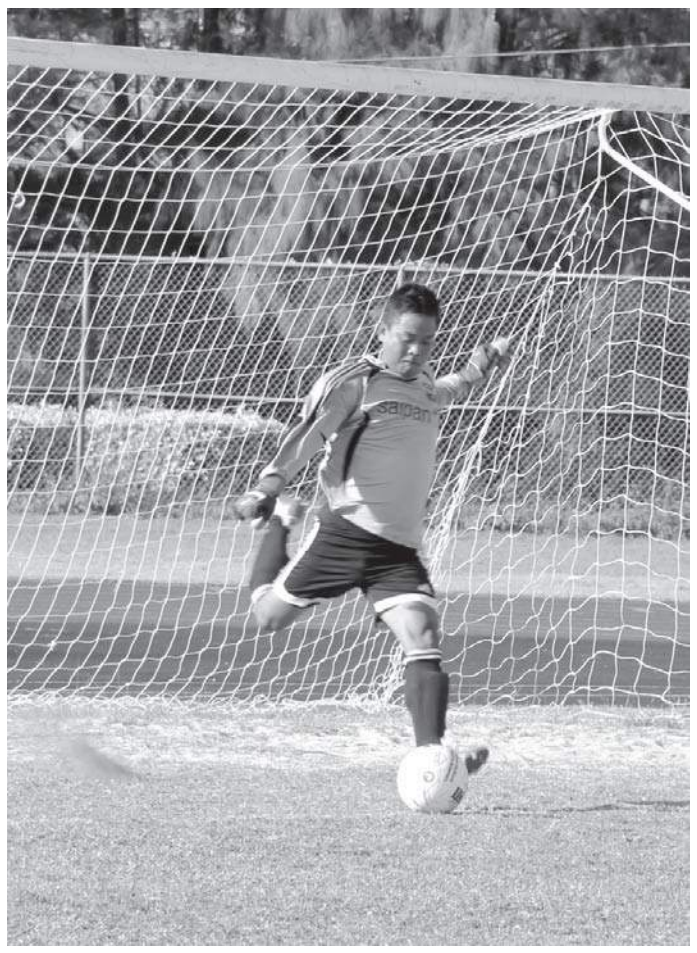
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Division A pacesetter Wild Bill's kept its perfect record in 2012 NMIFA Men's Spring League after another shutout win last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Wild Bill's, which came off a 5-0 spanking of Paire in Week 4, routed SKY, 6-0, in the first game last weekend behind the three straight goals of Thoensaket Jeeraphong. Wild Bill's now has a 5-0-0 win-draw-loss record to strengthen its hold to the top spot in the five-team field.

Thoensaket was fired up early in the came when he scored back-to-back goals in a span of four minutes. He put Wild Bill's in the scoreboard in the ninth minute and then had his second goal in the 13th. Thoensaket completed a hat-trick in the first half when he scored anew in the 35th minute.

Wild Bill's continued to roll in the opening 45 minutes of the game, as Daniel Wollak and Unsa Tanapon made two more goals in the last five minutes of the first half. Wollak lit up the scoreboard in the 40th minute, while Tanapon followed suit two minutes later. Wild Bill's last and only goal in the second half came from Lar Wongpaya, who found the back of the net in the 52nd minute.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Matansa goalie Zaw Moe kicks the ball during the first half of their game against Tan Holdings FC in Week 4 of the NMIFA men's league at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

With SKY failing to score a single goal and absorbing its fourth loss in five games, it remained at the bottom of the team standings.

Paire 1, KFAS 1

In the second game, Paire and Korean Football Association on Saipan had a draw.

Steve McKagan scored Paire's lone goal in the last minute of the first half, while Sung Jo Kang made the equalizer early in the second half (50th) minute.

With the draw, Paire now has a 2-2-1 card for second place, while KFAS is in fourth spot with its 0-3-2 mark.

Matansa 2, MP United 1

In the last game in Week 5, Matansa escaped past MP United.

Allen Mijares scored the winning goal for Matansa in the 59th minute. The game was tied after the first half, as Kiyoshi Sekiguchi put MP United in the scoreboard in the 32nd minute, while Jonathan Nogis answered 11 minutes later.

The victory was Matansa's third in six games, while the loss was second in a row for MP United, which also bowed to Tan Holdings, 0-4, on April 11. Matansa (3-1-2) is currently in second place in Division B behind Tan Holdings (4-1-0). MP United holds a 2-2-2 mark, while Shirley's has a 0-0-5 card.

TSUNAMI

From Page 28

Miku Tammy crushed three CNMI marks in the girls 9 to 10, Kaito Yanai broke one in the boys 11 to 12, and Ryuto Yanai eclipsed his own records in the boys U8 division.

Tammy started her record-breaking swims in the 200m freestyle Saturday morning when she submitted 2:34.86, about 12 seconds faster than the previous CNMI mark. Saipan Swim Club's Myana Welch held the old record at 2:46.59 posted on May 5, 2000.

Another of Welch's record fell Saturday morning when Tammy finished the 100m backstroke in 1:21.49, more than six seconds better than the former's mark of 1:27.64 made on March 28, 2000.

After her two records in the morning session of the two-day meet, the 10-year-old Tammy returned for the afternoon swim and crushed one more mark. She timed in at 2:53.17 in the 200m individual medley, surpassing the 12-year record of Welch (3:03.62/ March 28, 2000).

With her three new records, Tammy now owns seven CNMI age group marks in the 9 to 10 division. The four other records are in the 400m freestyle (5:43.69/Dec. 3, 2011), 800m freestyle (11:49.95/Jan. 21, 2012) 50m backstroke (39.46 seconds/Feb. 18, 2012), and 20m butterfly (37.64 seconds/ Feb. 18, 2011).

Ryuto Yanai still has five of the 11 age group records in the boys U8 division after resetting three of his marks in the SSC meet. His first event for the weekend was the 200m freestyle race last Friday and he timed in at 2:34.63, about 11 seconds faster than his own record 2:45.35 tallied on Dec. 10, 2011. Then in the Saturday morning session of the meet, 8-year-old Yanai swam in the 100m freestyle and clocked in at 1:15.69, which is better than his 1:16.11 set on Nov. 12, 2011. For the afternoon session, the Tsunami Saipan bet finished the 50m freestyle race in 33.04 seconds, breaking the CNMI age group mark (33.65 seconds), which he also owned and posted on Dec. 10, 2011.

Ryuto Yanai's two age CNMI age group records are in the 50m butterfly (36.48 seconds/ Feb. 18. 2012) and 100m butterfly (1:22.17/Jan. 21, 2012).

Ryuto's oldest brother, Kaito, added another record to his belt after submitting 2:39.48 in the 200m backstroke race last Friday. Kaito's time shattered the 2:40.79 Kensuke Kimura set in the boys 11 to 12 age group on Feb. 7, 2009. Kaito now has five records in his age group and is in good shape in overtaking the records of Joshua Taitano, who holds the most marks with seven. Kensuke Kimura's records in the 11 to 12 dropped from five to four after Kaito's 200m backstroke mark. Kaito's four other records are in the 100m backstroke (1:15.51/Feb. 18, 2012), 50m breaststroke (36.78 seconds/ Feb. 18, 2012), 100m breaststroke (1:19.26/Dec. 3, 2011), and 200m breaststroke (2:51.79/Jan. 21, 2012).

SECOND

From Page 28

Marielle Gariguez has chipped in three and two, respectively.

Other players who has drained at least goal this season are Matansa's Patricia Santiago (2), Paire's Kayleen Salle (2), Adela Saralu (1), and Mikaela Duenas (1), and Shirley's Elaine Enriquez (1).

For the teams total, MP United and Matansa have scored eight and six, respectively, and Paire has gained five. Only Tan Holdings FC has yet to make a goal this season.

FIRST

From Page 28

825 pinfalls. The IT&E employee started slow with 178 pinfalls in Game 1 last Monday, but showed tough form in the last three games, knocking down more than 200 pins (220, 224, and 203) for an average of 206.25.

Zapanta managed to overtake Sunday leader Joe Sto. Domingo, who posted 759 pinfalls (157, 236, 182, and 184) and averaged 189.75 in Day 1 of the two-day roll-off. Simon Manacop competed in Day 2 and his four-game total of 758 pinfalls (192, 223, 150, and 193) were good enough for a third place finish. Participants in the King and Queen roll-offs were allowed to bowl for two days, but only the higher score will be counted.

Taitano only joined the second day of the tournament and her four-game total of 698 pinfalls surpassed the 610 of Day 1 leader Elena Soll. Taitano had her best showing in Game 2, recording 191 pinfalls and tallied 178, 176, and 153 in the three other games for an average of 174.50.

The newly crowned April Queen of the Lanes won by only four pinfalls against Gloria Omechelang, who was the lone female kegler to post more than 200 pinfalls in a single game with her 206 in the final game. However, Omechelang only nailed 144 in Game 1 and had 179 and 165 in the next two games in Day 2 to fall short in her bid for her first monthly crown.

Rounding out the Top 3 in the women's field was Carrie Camacho, who made 668 pinfalls (181, 158, 161, and 168) in Day 2 for an average of 167. Soll also bowled in the second day of the tournament, but her 613 pinfalls only brought her to sixth place behind Yho Villavicencio (636) and Ron Cal (622).

Two in a row for Aldan

In the Fiji Water Prince of the Lane, March winner M.J. Aldan made it two in a row after scoring 670 pinfalls in four games (190, 168, 130, and 182) and beating three other youth bowlers.

Aldan won by 62 pinfalls against runner-up Toby Verdaguer (618). Ryan Batac and Nikko Gutierrez completed the field and logged 509 and 481 pinfalls, respectively.

Pacquiao open to smaller purse

By ROY LUARCA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BOXING

Manny Pacquiao is enticing Floyd Mayweather Jr. with a tempting offer yet again.

The Filipino eight-division world champion said he is now willing to accept a lesser guaranteed purse just to seal a fight with the unbeaten American.

Pacquiao, however, insisted that the pay-per-view revenues be split equally.

Pacquiao

"It's fine with me if he has a bigger guaranteed purse," Pacquiao told ANC Headstart in Filipino yesterday. "There's no problem as long as we have a 50-50 split on the PPV."

Pacquiao scoffed at Mayweather's earlier offer of $40 million with no PPV share and made a counter offer of 45-45 sharing with the remaining 10 percent going to the winner of the fight.

Mayweather rejected the offer and instead booked a showdown with Puerto Rican Miguel Cotto on May 5, forcing Pacquiao to stake his crown against unbeaten WBO light welterweight champion Timothy Bradley on June 9.

Pacquiao said he is willing to fight Mayweather any time and it is up to his pound-for-pound rival to seal the deal that could reward each fighter with at least $50 million.

Pacquiao also disclosed that Mayweather's reluctance to agree to an equal sharing stems from the possibility that he might suffer a first, career-derailing defeat.

Mayweather reportedly told a member of his team that Pacquiao, being a congressman (of Sarangani province), has a fallback position while he has none.

Meanwhile, Pacquiao was guest of honor at the well-attended 12th Gabriel "Flash" Elorde Banquet of Champions held Sunday night at the Dusit Thani Hotel in Makati City.

In his speech, Pacquiao, who was feted for his outreach program, enjoined his fellow boxers, including former world champion Rolando Navarette and former world contender Z Gorres, to continue pursuing their dreams for the country's glory.

Also present was former light welterweight champion Amir Khan, who will join Pacquiao's training camp in Baguio City.

In one of the pre-event bouts, Dennis Laurente survived a first-round knockdown to stop Eusebio Baluarte in the 12th round and retain his Philippine welterweight title.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	36	26	.581	–
New York	32	29	.525	3 1/2
Philadelphia	31	30	.508	4 1/2
New Jersey	22	40	.355	14
Toronto	22	40	.355	14

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Miami	43	17	.717	–
x-Atlanta	36	25	.590	7 1/2
x-Orlando	36	25	.590	7 1/2
Washington	15	46	.246	28 1/2
Charlotte	7	53	.117	36

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Chicago	46	15	.754	–
x-Indiana	40	22	.645	6 1/2
Milwaukee	29	31	.483	16 1/2
Detroit	23	38	.377	23
Cleveland	20	40	.333	25 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-San Antonio	44	16	.733	–
Memphis	36	25	.590	8 1/2
Dallas	34	28	.548	11
Houston	32	29	.525	12 1/2
New Orleans	19	42	.311	25 1/2

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Oklahoma City	44	17	.721	–
Denver	34	27	.557	10
Utah	32	30	.516	12 1/2
Portland	28	34	.452	16 1/2
Minnesota	25	38	.397	20

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-L.A. Lakers	39	23	.629	–
x-L.A. Clippers	38	23	.623	1/2
Phoenix	32	29	.525	6 1/2
Golden State	22	38	.367	16
Sacramento	20	41	.328	18 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	7	4	.636	–
Toronto	6	4	.600	1/2
New York	6	5	.545	1
Tampa Bay	5	6	.455	2
Boston	4	7	.364	3

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	8	3	.727	–
Cleveland	5	4	.556	2
Chicago	5	5	.500	2 1/2
Kansas City	3	8	.273	5
Minnesota	3	8	.273	5

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	9	2	.818	–
Seattle	6	6	.500	3 1/2
Oakland	5	7	.417	4 1/2
Los Angeles	4	7	.364	5

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	9	3	.750	–
New York	7	4	.636	1 1/2
Atlanta	6	5	.545	2 1/2
Miami	5	6	.455	3 1/2
Philadelphia	5	6	.455	3 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	8	3	.727	–
Milwaukee	5	6	.455	3
Cincinnati	4	7	.364	4
Houston	4	7	.364	4
Pittsburgh	4	7	.364	4
Chicago	3	8	.273	5

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	9	2	.818	–
Arizona	7	4	.636	2
Colorado	5	6	.455	4
San Francisco	5	6	.455	4
San Diego	3	9	.250	6 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

All set for ROP 12: Unstoppable tomorrow

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TRENCH TECH

All is set for Trench Tech Purebred Promotions' Rites Of Passage 12: Unstoppable! Set for tomorrow, April 20, at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom.

The highlight of the evening's mixed martial arts activities is Trench Tech's very first bantamweight championship bout between Zalaka's Joe Duenas (4-0) and Trench Tech's Mark "The Dark" Nuique (7-0).

An electric Guam versus Saipan grudge match is also in the mix featuring Spike 22's Ricky Camp (3-0) and Marianas Elite's Vince "Vincesanity" Pua (4-0) at 150 lbs.

In addition, Trench Tech veteran Fasi "Quick Draw" Jesse (8-4) will be paired against Lights Out Gym's Ryan Toves (4-3) at 145 lbs and Trench Tech's Mylo "Bam Bam" Lassiter (4-1) will face Guam's Pete "Big Mac" Miyasaki (1-0).

Trench Tech's Josh "Chaos" Duenas (2-3) is also being paired against Countershot's Jon "The Heat" Delos Reyes at 135 lbs.

Other MMA matchups include Trench Tech's up-and-comer Vince "The Clinch" Masga (2-0) taking on Marinas Elite's Derrick "El Peligro" Rangamar (5-8) at 145 lbs; Countershot's Aaron Magbuhat (a win and a draw) squaring off against Tinian's Pete Cepeda (2-1), of team Zeng Zung, at 150 lbs; Tinian independent fighter Ton Borja clashing with Trench Tech's Seong Ho Chung in a double debut at 145 lbs; Countershot's Josh "The Hedgehog" Alvarez (8-5) taking on "Tabi" Jay Muna (4-13) at 125 lbs; and Trench Tech's Ronald Hermosilla set to debut against Zogai's Brandon "Commotion" Camacho (0-1) at 145lbs.

Guam Muay Thai's JD "Ekyotin" Dizon and Jeremy "Jermz Ekyotin" Javellana will appear in two Rites of Passage 12: Unstoppable K-1 kickboxing matches. Dizon will be paired against Danny Agulto at 140 lbs, while newcomer Javellana will face Tavita Lueta.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A pair of boxing matches also kick off the action featuring team Zalaka's Zac "Attack" Reyes welcoming Countershot newcomer Julius Yangetmai for an exhibition bout at 170 lbs and Juan Lansangan (1-0) set to exchange with D.A.T. Gym newcomer Lusion "The Leech" George at 145 lbs.

Then Four K-1 kickboxing matches set the stage for the MMA action, which banners K-1 Guahan's Sonny Chargualaf trading kicks and punches with Zeng Zung's Regino "The Kidd" Mundo (4-0) at 145 lbs.

Other pairings include Guam Muay Thai's Justin "Dunka" Dizon (0-1) versus Danny Agulto at 140 lbs; Countershot's Jared "Smiley Face" Santos (0-1) matched up with Zalaka's Jordan Manglona (0-1) at 120 lbs; and Guam Muay Thai's Jeremy "Pacman" Javellana debuting against Trench Tech's Tavita Lueta (1-0) at 140 lbs.

Tickets for ROP 12: Unstoppable are on sale now at Tha Trapp Urban Boutique, Docomo Pacific, Boarderline Skate Shop, and at the Trench Tech Gym located on the seventh floor of the Marianas Business Plaza. Tickets cost $20 for general admission and $30 for VIP seating; fights are subject to change.

Retardo, Avendano top April tourney

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

William Retardo and Ruben Avendano were declared Filtaga Golfers Association's April Aces of the Month for the A and B divisions, respectively, after the conclusion of the club's monthly event last Sunday at the Marianas Country Club.

Retardo started out with an even 40 at the turn and came into the clubhouse with a 36 for a field low gross count of 76 that worked into a 69 net total.

April's A Division winner really did bring his A-game on Sunday and blazed the trail to finish six strokes ahead of the pack.

Retardo

Rene Batallones managed an 82 raw card, which was good for second place in the A class with a 73 net score. Dennis Sebastian grossed an 85 and finished tied with Batallones with a 73 net total, but settled for third place via the handicap tiebreaker rule. A total of 11 players made up the A Division.

B Division winner Avendano, meanwhile, scratched a 47 on the front nine and finished the back with a 48 for a gross tally of 95 that calculated into a net score of 66 that topped nine other golfers.

His 29 handicap held up against runner-up Jess Yumul (69 net) and third placer Richard Meimban (71 net).

Players with a 0 to 16 handicap are placed in the A field, while players with handicaps ranging from 17 to 32 being grouped in the B division.

The pair joins March Ace Paul Bea, February Ace Randy Tudela, and January's co-Aces Richard Atalig and James Mitchell. Filtaga awards co-winners when the turnout exceeds 20 participants.

Monthly aces receive a $150 cash prize and automatic entrance into its season-ending Golfer of the Year Tournament held every January; $300 cash prizes are also awarded for sinking a hole-in-one.

The annual membership fee is $50, exclusive of monthly green fees. Filtaga uses a USGA approved handicap system posted on their website, www.filtaga.com, which features computer-based scoring calculations. Visit their Facebook page to view photos of recent events.

Filtaga events are held once a month, usually on the third Sunday.

Try Luck snaps winning streak in Ladies League

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jonny's Bar & Grill's Try Luck broke a lengthy winning streak on Monday when they bowed to Joe's Steakhouse's Just Like Dat, 8-7, in Monday's Saipan Electronic Dart Association's Ladies division matchup.

In addition, SOS Bar & Grill's Mixblood Shooters II, VFW Post 3457's Good Guys II, and SOS' DJ Fish are the current leaders of the A, B-Flame Tree, and B-Fanihi divisions after the conclusion of the most recent 2012 Bud Light Winter-Summer league matchups.

On Monday, Just Like Dat (64-56) pulled out the stunner over division leader Try Luck at home at Joe's. However, the latter still maintains a firm grip over the Ladies field with an overall win-loss card of 85-35.

Although the loss caused a small chink in Try Luck's honor, it is nice to see a group make a stand for a change against the dominators of the division.

Meanwhile, Naked Fish Bar & Grill's Man Amigas chipped away at its deficit with a much-needed 10-5 victory over VFW's B-52's. The win left them knotted at second place with its opponents in the standings as both teams hold equal 71-49 slates.

In other results, Joe's Daffodils (47-73) survived SOS' Daarty Deedz (38-82), 8-7, on the road and 19th Holes' Team Reapers (53-67) defeated Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's Momes'i Mei (51-69), 10-5, also in a road match.

Also on Monday, A Division's Mixblood II defeated Bammy's third place Bud Brothers (74-62), 11-6, at home to improve its record to 81-55.

Despite the sound victory, Mixblood II holds the top by just three games as Bammy's Sabalu (78-58) pummeled Sand's Juvy Predators (54-82), 14-3, on the road.

In other results, Bammy's Celebrity (68-68) evened its overall card with a 12-5, home shellacking of SOS' 101 Proofers (65-71) and the VFW Primos (55-81) escaped Naked Fish's Naked Fish Boyz (69-67), 9-8, for a sweet upset at home.

B-Flame Tree's Good Guys II found a way past SOS bottom-feeder What U Got (45-60), 8-7, on the road to improve to 62-43.

Four games back in second place sits Joe's Skoregazzzums (58-47) who feasted on Bammy's Lilapuching (47-58), 11-4, at home.

In other results, Jonny's third place Rehab (55-50) defeated sister team Retsa-Sakude II! (51-54), 9-6, in a home draw and 19th Hole Bar's Dart Freaks (49-56) drilled The Water Front (53-52), 10-5, for a cheeky road upset.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Just Like Dat poses for a team photo at their home bar, Joe's Steakhouse, after grinding out an 8-7 upset over Jonny's Bar & Grill's Try Luck in last week's featured SEDA Ladies pairing.

Also on Thursday, DJ Fish outlasted sister team Lights Out (59-46), 8-7, in a home draw to reestablish its reign atop B Fanihi and improve to 70-35.

Bammy's third place DRP-2 (55-50) surpassed IT&E's Na'Gupu (48-57), 9-6, in a road match at Naked Fish to gain some ground on second-ranked Lights Out.

In other results, VFW's Dutty Gunz (47-58) downed Es'y Kitchen's Kitchen Shooters (49-56), 8-7, in an upset at home and Poseidon's One Shot (44-61) pulled off a close 8-7 home upset over Jonny's Adventurers (48-57).

31 compete in annual Taga Kids Triathlon

The Taga Kids Triathlon capped off the 2012 Saipan Sportsfest with 31 young athletes completing the afternoon race at the American Memorial Park last March 31.

Rintaro Miyawaki, Kaga Coume, Logan Mister, and Sato Karen emerged as top finishers in their respective divisions and were recognized during the awards ceremony in conjunction with the 23rd Annual Tagaman Triathlon.

The Top 3 finishers in each age group received medals during the ceremony at Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Miyawaki was the first overall finisher of the shortest course to top the boys' 6-8 age group. He timed in at 2.17 in the swim split, 9.19 in the bike race, and 3.89 in the run leg for a total time of 15.25.94. Rounding out the Top 3 were Akira Kadokura (16.16.33) and Taka Horimoto (16.57.06).

The annual Taga Kids Triathlon, which came after Tagaman concluded, started with a 100m swim sprint in the waters off Micro Beach for the 6-8 age group and 200m for 9-and-above.

Then in the bike course, the 6-8 age group headed to the flag circle and back to the transition area for the run split, which brought runners near the bell tower and back. In the 9-12 division, bikers went to as far as the Army Reserve Center, while the oldest age group had to pass Charley Dock entrance before heading back to the park for the run leg.

In the girls' 6-8 age group, Kaga had the best time at 18.04. She clocked in at 2.25 in the swim race, 10.22 in the bike split, and 5.57 in the run portion to prevail over Conatsu Kaga (17.05.94) and Soleil Lamar (18.24.04).

In the boys' 9-12 age division, Logan Mister submitted 28.08 to win against Cole Chambers (30.39), and Kasai Naoki (32.11). Mister tallied 2.31 in the swim split, 17.73 in the bike race, and 10.35 in the run leg.

Sato took the top honors in the girls 9-12 age division after completing the longer race in 39.07. Her lone competitor Maya Shimizu followed in 46.48.

The race was sponsored by Gatorade, KKMP radio station, Team PDI, Northern Marianas Athletics, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Delta Air Lines, MWA, Refaluwasch Warriors and CNMI Domatsuri Team, and Hyatt Regency Saipan. ***(MVA)***

Anthony has triple-double, Knicks beat Celtics

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Sports

Moyer becomes oldest pitcher to win game in majors

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Tsunami Saipan swimmers crush 7 records

Tsunami Saipan's Miku Tammy nears completion of the butterfly leg of the 200m individual medley event in the SSC Invitational held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan swimmers shattered four CNMI age group records and reset three during the 2012 SSC International Invitational Meet held last weekend at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

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Comets' Mendiola, Ol'Aces' Secharmidal flying high in Majors

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Joseph P. Guerrero Dandan Comets' leadoff hitter Aurel Mendiola and IT&E Ol'Aces' do-it-all man Virgil Secharmedal are lording it over the statistical race of the ongoing Saipan Little League Major Division.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Enforcers' Kier Agda, seen here in a file photo, is the head on favorite as the Major Division home run king with eight thus far on the year.

Mendiola has hammered 24 hits in 32 at bats for an impressive 0.774 batting average.

Close on his heels is DPS Dare Program-JPO Enforcers' Kier Agda (18-24/0.750) with Comets' Ethan Babauta (13-20/0.650), Natibu Sports Association-Tanapag Falcons' Benen Iguel (11-19/0.579), Pacific Amusements-Rays' Nathaniel Torres (13-23/0.565) and Jay Kalen (13-24/0.542), Ol'Aces' Secharmidal (19-36/0.528), Natibu-Tanapag Braves' Andres Camacho 12-23/0.522) and Enforcers' Dennis Cabrera (10-20/0.500) rounding out the Top 9. Five other players with at least 18 at bats are swinging 0.450 or better, while another half dozen are batting upwards of 0.400.

Mendiola leads the league in runs scored with 22, and in triples with five, while Secharmidal's 16 RBIs fronts Agda (15) and As Matuis Twins' Richard John Atalig (14). However, Agda has belted eight homers so far this year to lead three others with three apiece.

Secharmidal, Enforcers' Shakobe Rangamar, and San Vicente A's Christian Lizama share the lead in doubles with six apiece; Babauta, Enforcers' Joaquin Saralu, Braves' Brandon Pua, and Bank of Saipan Red Sox's Chabo Leon Guerrero each have five doubles.

On the mound Secharmidal (5-2) has allowed 12 earned runs through 31.2 innings off 21 hits for a 2.27 earned run average when comparing pitchers with at least 21 innings of work.

He leads Atalig (2.79), Pua (3.07), Lizama (3.19), and IT&E's Matt Kapileo (4.91) in ERA.

Secharmidal has rang up 73 strikeouts through eight games to pace Atalig (66), Pua (65), and Kapileo (62). Lizama has seven appearances.

Second win for MP United, Matansa

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MP United and Matansa blanked separate foes at the Hopwood Junior High School Field last Saturday to notch their second win in the girls U15 division of the 2012 NMIFA Youth Spring League.

Matansa played in the curtain-raiser and downed Tan Holdings, 2-0, while MP United had a similar shutout win over Paire, 4-0, in the second match.

Maile Aldrich made both goals for Paire to give her team a 2-1-2 win-draw-loss record in the five-team field. Aldrich broke into the scoreboard early when he found the back of the net in the third minute and then got her second goal in the 57th. With her two goals last Saturday, Aldrich has collected five so far in the season.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MP United's Negahr Rastguiy, dribbles as Paire defenders chase her during the first half of their game in the U15 division of the NMIFA spring league last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

MP United's Negahr Rastguiy now has three goals after making a pair in their rout of Paire. Rastguiy drilled the first goal in the game in the opening 45 minutes and then had another one in the second half. Gabrielle Race also scored in the second half, while Seoung Hyun Lee nailed the other goal for MP United, bringing the latter's total to three this season.

MP United improved to a 2-3-0 slate to remain in second place behind the undefeated Shirley's FC. League-leading Shirley's owns a 3-1-0 card and has the most goals scored so far in the league with 15, five of them coming from Alexa Vergara. Diana Maniacop has earned four, while Kyla Ito and

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Wild Bill's slate still clean; Matansa wins

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First win for Zapanta, Taitano

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After three fruitless attempts, Raymond Zapanta and Lala Taitano finally notched their first win of the season, following separate victories in the Saipan Bowling Association/ Budweiser Kind and Queen of the Lanes' April roll-offs held at the Capitol Bowling Center.

Zapanta, who failed to finish in the Top 3 in the first three monthly roll-offs, this time made it to he podium with his four-game total of

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Lala Taitano, left, and Raymond Zapanta are all smiles after receiving their prizes in the SBA April roll-offs last Monday at the Capitol Bowling Center.